PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper

London, Thursday, April 15, 1999

No. 36,116

75 Refugees Reportedly Die in Raid

NATO Says Its Pilots Hit Military Convoy

BELGRADE --- The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that at least 75 people were killed and 25 wounded in NATO air raids on two columns

of refugees in western Kosovo.

NATO military sources conceded that alliance warplanes had targeted and attacked military vehicles on a road in western Kosovo, but they would not confirm Serbian media reports that dozens of civilians had been killed in the bombings.

If the account were true, it would mark by far the largest single loss of civilian life reported during the three-week-old NATO bombing campaign.

The Serb-run Media Center in the Kosovo capital

of Pristina said two separate refugee convoys were bombed, most of them made up of women, children and elderly ethnic Albanians who were being escorted by Serbian police toward the border.

The reported attacks come the day after NATO admitted mistakenly bombing a train as it crossed a bridge at Grdelicka Klisura, 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Belgrade, an attack that the BETA press agency said Wednesday had killed 10 people. wounded 16 and left 17 missing.
The Pentagon said later Wednesday that Serbian

forces escorting a convoy of Kosovo refugees may have attacked and killed some of the civilians after military vehicles in the convoy were hit in a NATO

Kenneth Bacon, the Pentagon spokesman, said General Wesley Clark, the top NATO commander, had received "verbal reports of the possibility" that, after military vehicles in the refugee convoy were hit, "military people got out" and "began to attack civilians in the middle of the convoy."

A NATO spokesman, Jamie Shea, acknowledged that "military vehicles" had been a target Wed-

Starr Urges End

To His Own Job



A man passing bodies near the village of Meja where the Serbs reported 64 people were killed.

western Kosovo.

He added that NATO was trying to establish whether the convoy had been hit by mistake. "We are processing the battle damage assessment." he

"I would not jump to any conclusions until we've

nesday afternoon on the Prizren-Djakovica road in had a chance to make an assessment," be said. Reserve judgment until we have the facts. Refugees fleeing Kosovo are reporting to relief workers that Yugoslav helicopters and airplanes have been attacking refugee convoys in the Serbian

See CONVOY, Page 4

Children of Chaos in Refugee Camp

For a Little Girl With No Name, Home Is Now Tent No. 389

KUKES, Albania - Somehow, she made it to the border. Somehow she made it along the winding mountain roads to the steps of a mosque at the edge of a field in the northern Albanian town of Kukes — and that's where whoever brought her here abandoned her.

They don't know her name; they think it starts with a J, because that's a sound she makes from time to time.

They don't know her age, but they think she is between 1½ and 2, a range they arrived at by getting her to trust them enough to open her mouth so they could count her teeth.

They think she was lying on a blanket at the base of the steps for perhaps six- still attached to the tractors that pulled

less, and realized after asking around that she had been abandoned. Not knowing what else to do, the woman took the

girl to live with her.

That happened Friday. Now she is living in a tentwith a family she does not know, one of more than 100,000 refugees in the miserable place that is Kuler. Kukes, all of them in various stages of the chaos of displacement. Most of them are children.

The lncky ones are living in tents that smell of damp canvas, and the luckier ones are living in old, crowded ware-houses that smell of bundreds of shoes. The unlucky ones — numbering in the thousands — are living in carts that are

hours, until a woman approached her, them here from the harning interior of saw she was filthy, shoeless and sock-

The abandoned toddler is in a tent toward the end of a row that comes up against a stone wall topped by barbed wire. The number on the tent is 389, and the people inside include Resije Mesin, 32, the woman who found the girl; Shy-qyri, her busband, 38; and their three children, and Sbyqyri's brother and sis-ter-in-law and their children. They are 15 people in all.

Resije and Shyqyri intend to raise the little girl as their own.

By Tuesday, she is eating and sleep-ing, and sometimes smiling, but Resije says that the girl has diarrhea, and they

See KIDS, Page 4

don't have enough clothing for her and

EU Leaders Back UN Cease-Fire Plan For Serb Pullback **Diplomatic Efforts by Allies** Over Kosovo Begin to Surface

By Joseph Fitchett International Herald Tribune

PARIS - Diplomatic maneuvering among the allies in the Kosovo conflict broke into public view for the first time Wednesday when a number of proposals surfaced at an EU summit meeting in Brussels for ending the war and also for assuring postwar stability in the shat-

tered province and across the territories of the former Federation of Yngoslavia. The European Union leaders backed a United Nations peace initiative calling for an suspension of NATO air raids if Belgrade acted immediately to halt the violence in Kosovo, withdraw all its forces, allow an international security force to deploy in the province and permit the Kosovo refugees to go

After meeting with Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, EU leaders said that they boped to see this initiative become a Security Council resolution that would win the approval of Russia.

NATO, not the Security Council or the European Union, launched and controls the action against the forces of

trols the action against the forces of President Slobodan Milosevic, but Britain and France, which are members of all three organizations, want to see Western diplomacy ease the isolation Russia feels in the conflict.

If Belgrade agreed to the UN proposal, which appeared to largely over-iap NATO's five demands for an end to hostilities, the European allies would probably get the United States to agree — even though Washington would be loath to see too much UN influence in a

The Clinton administration insists that NATO must be free to act without any risk of paralysis caused by a UN role, but the European allies - who agreed on the Kosovo offensive without a Security Council mandate because of risk of a Russian veto - want to restore a UN role and benefit from its international legitimacy in a settlement.

For the momeot, allied governments were orchestrating their diplomacy carefully, taking individual positions catering to their domestic opinion but concentrating on avoiding any hint of a crack in their solid front as NATO pressed an escalating military offensive to defeat Mr. Milosevic's forces in

A German plan, offering a 24-bour cease-fire in NATO air strikes if Serbian forces started withdrawing from Kosovo, received ginger treatment from the allies, with a Clinton administration spokesman saying merely that it was constructive.

President Jacques Chirac of France reportedly suggested an EU mandate for postwar Kosovo, putting a European twist on an old term for international control of a territory pending a decision on whether it should be independent or attached to another nation.

The French suggestion would fit a situation in which Kosovo would not revert to the control of a Serbia still controlled by President Milosevic.

All the allied governments have started formulating plans for a postwar recovery plan, including economic aid, that would end the series of conflicts that have acculfed Bernia and Kosovo. that have engulfed Bosnia and Kosovo
— and could endanger the former
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and
also Albania, diplomats said.

The NATO alliance said its warplanes and missiles struck across Kosovo and Serbia on Wednesday, hitting bridges, fuel depots, communications lines and command centers. The NATO civilian spokesman, lam-

Shea, said the allies were steadily adding firepower, bringing in bundreds of planes from the United States, Canada, France and Italy. 'With more than 1,000 aircraft on

stream very soon we will be able to maintain a continuous operation to tighten the screw on Serb forces in Kosovo," he said. Some of the strongest hints yet sur-

faced in Washington and London that allied ground troops might be used once Serbian resistance had been broken by

air strikes.

The British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, told Parliament on Wednesday; "There may be circumstances in which one could envisage an international protection force going in without a formal treaty arrangement but with no resistance on the ground."

There has to be evidence that the Serb forces are at least in the process of withdrawing." he said, "and there bas to be a credible intention for them all to

See KOSOVO, Page 4

Anwar's Sentencing Sets Off Rioting

As news of the verdict spread through

been a riveting daily event for seven

Malaysian riot police officers wielding rattan sticks. But it quickly regrouped

and much of the city was paralyzed as

the police pursued the demonstrators

through the streets of Kuala Lumpur's

historic district.

By Mark Landler New York Times Service

KUALA, LUMPUR - Anwar

Ibrahim, the dismissed deputy prime minister of Malaysia, was found guilty

of corruption and sentenced Wednesday to six years in prison in a verdict that

turned this orderly city into a cauldron

the very core of the administrative sys-tem," Judge Angustine Paul found Mr. Anwar guilty of all four charges that he abused his power as Malaysia's No. 2

official. The judge even refused to give

Mr. Anwar credit for time he has served

Lawyers for Mr. Anwar, 51, appealed the verdict. But for now, supporters of the man who was groomed to lead the country say that he is the victim of a political feud that has generated sharp

in jail since his arrest last September.

Declaring that his conduct "strikes at

of anti-government riots.

Pakistan Matches **India Missile Test**

AGENDA

Kenneth Starr on the same

day he testified before Congress, orging lawmakers not to reauthorize the independent counsel statute. Page 3.

Three days after India launched a nuclear-capable missile, Pakistan responded Wednesday by firing off a new and improved version of its own ballistic missile from a testing range near the city of Jhelum in the

The Ghami-2 missile, named after a 12th-century Muslim invader who conquered parts of northern India, flew about 1,120 kilometers (700 miles). Page 2.

India Government Loses Its Majority

The government of India lost its majority in Parliament on Wednes-day and faced an immediate vote of confidence on Thursday that could remove it from office. The govemment of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee scrambled late into the night to secure enough votes to survive. Page 10.

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6 Algerians Quit the Race

All but One of Presidential Candidates Cry Fou

By Charles Trueheart Washington Post Service

ALGIERS - Six of the seven candidates running for president of Algeria abruptly withdrew Wednesday from the Thursday election, charging "persist-ent" fraud in a process touted by the military-backed government and even some of its critics as a historic step toward democratic pluralism.

The stunning eleventh-hour withdrawal by all the candidates except Abdelaziz Bonteflika, the front-runner and unofficial choice of the Algerian military and political clites, was bound to discredit the results of the balloting Thursday and render Mr. Bouteflika's

expected victory hollow at best, In a televised address Wednesday night, the outgoing president, Liamine Zeroual, said the election would go forth as scheduled despite the withdrawals.

As trucks sprayed the crowd with chemical-laced water, the protesters burled rocks and bottles at the police, lit bonfires on major streets and chanted Reformasi! - the slogan that originated

president, and we hold it responsible for

what follows," the candidates said in a

statement that was read at a boisterous

news conference to the cheers of their

See ALGERIA, Page 10

criticism of Prime Minister Mahathir in Indonesia and now symbolizes the reform movement here as well.

By nightfall, the mayhem seemed to Knala Lumpur - ending a trial that has have died down. The clashes were the worst in months, with the police firing multiple rounds of tear gas at small pockmonths - several thousand people took to the streets in a show of outrage, chanting anti-Mahathir slogans and waving placards proclaiming "The people are the judge."

The crowd was repulsed by water cannon on trucks and bundreds of Malaysian and control of the control ets of Anwar supporters and beating a human rights activist who tried to block the path of a water-cannon truck. Police officials said that 18 people bad been arrested, most at a mosque near the

"We are very angry and upset," said Shidi Amin, a 38-year-old business-man, as be watched protesters flee in the path of advancing riot police near the

main post office.

"They've tried to kill Anwar as a political leader," he charged. "But the people will not forget about him, even if

See ANWAR, Page 10

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		The Dollar	
Juit the Race	New York	Wednesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
Sam the 1thee	Euro	1.0806	1.0774
:1C 3:1 C P 1	Pound	1.6136	1.6155
tial Candidates Cry Foul	Yen	118.63	119.725
	DM	1.8102	1.8154
"I have decided that the electoral process will be taken to its conclusion,"	FF	6,0709	6.0886
Mr. Zeroual said, adding that the six	Dellars per p	ound and per euro.	
candidates who pulled out had taken a		The Dow	
"dangerous decision."		Wednesday close	percent change
The six candidates made common	+ 16.65	10,411.66	+ 0.16%
cause in refusing pre-emptively to rec- ognize the results of the election be-		S&P 500	
cause, they said in a collective dec-	4		
laration Wednesday, commitments for free and transparent elections made by	-21.36	1,328.46	- 1.58%
Mr. Zeroual and the Algerian Army had		Nasdag	
been violated.	-		
"We note the persistence of the gov- erument in denying citizens their right	-76,01	2,507.49	-294%
to decide their future and to choose their			

Page 7.

Page 10.

Pages 6-7.

Pages 18-19.

Books..

Crossword.

Supporters of the convicted former deputy prime minister, Anwar

Ibrahim, chanting Wednesday outside the courthouse in Kuala Lumpur.

China Gets Boost on Trade

Clinton Asks Zhu to Restart WTO Negotiations

By Katherine Q. Seelye New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - After coming under strong criticism that he had backed away from a trade deal with China because of domestic politics, President Bill Clinton has called on China's prime minister to restart the negotiations in Beriing this month aimed at admitting China to the World Trade Organization.

The White House announced the effort Tuesday as Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, who has complained repeatedly about the failure to reach a deal during his tour of the United States, was visiting New York and the Boston area before heading to Canada. Mr. Zhu had spent much of his time lohbying business executives about the benefits of an accord on trade.

Mr. Zhn said later he had told Mr. Clinton during their phone call that "I feel very confident that in the near future we will see the successful conclusion of negotiations that are favorable to both sides - but especially to the U.S.' "Some observers think we're 95 per-

cent there," Mr. Zhu said. "I think we're 99 percent there. We'll see conclusion of an agreement."

A World Trade Organization agreement may be reached within two or three months, Mr. Zhu told Cable News Network, according to Bloomberg News. "Of course I would rather see it

in another two weeks' time," he said.] Mr. Clinton's phone call to the Chinese leader followed a meeting Monday in which nearly two dozen business executives lobhied the White House to emphasize the importance of the deal to

They were happy with the progress

we made but were worried that the deal

American companies.

See TRADE, Page 12

EUROPE/INTERNATIONAL

Responding to India, Pakistan Tests Missile of Its Own

By Celia A. Dugger New York Times Service

NEW DELHI - Three days after India launched a nuclear-capable missile, Pakistan responded Wednesday by firing off a new and improved version of its own ballistic missile from a testing range near the city of Jhelum in the northern part of the country.

The Chauri-2 missile, named after a 12thcentury Muslim invader who conquered parts of northern India, flew about 1,120 kilometers (700 miles) in 12 minutes to land in the sparsely populated southwestern province of Baluchistan on the Arabian Sea coast.

A government statement said the missile "can be tipped with any type of warhead." The official Pakistani press agency said the Ghauri-2 might be tested a second time to its full range of 2,320 kilometers with a landing

India's Agni-2 missile, which is named with the Sanskrit word for fire, traveled 2,010 kilometers Sunday before it splashed into the

Bay of Bengal, officials here said.

Indian officials have repeatedly and publicly stated their intention to test the intermediate-range missiles they say are needed for a credible nuclear deterrent, particularly against their other nuclear-armed neighbor, China. But Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan said Tnesday that India was responsible for intensifying the arms race with its latest missile test.

On Wednesday, he congratulated the Pakistanis on the successful test of the Ghanri.

The Pakistani Army chief of staff, General Pervez Musharraf, told reporters in Karachi on Monday, "We have developed Ghauri, which is a most effective missile and better than that of Agni. India has the amhition to reach the world, but we have the capability to

reach India." The two nations' exchange of missile tests about the echoed the nuclear tests they conducted 11 Pakistan. months ago. India, taking the lead, and Pakistan became the newest nuclear powers last May when they detonated nuclear devices underground.

In recent months, Mr. Sharif and the Indian prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, have sought to better relations between their nations, which have fought three wars in the past



Pakistanis celebrating the Wednesday missile test by their country by exploding fireworks in a street of Lahore.

They promised to give each other advance notice before any further missile tests, a tacit recognition that more tests were likely. In this case. India told Pakistan about its plans to test the Agni two days in advance, while Pakistan notified India on Tuesday of its intentions to test a missile.

men agreed that they would continue talking another step toward developing their nuclear that Mr. Vajpayee heads.

about the core issues that divided India and arsenals. "We hope that this will not mean the end of the process started at Lahore, and it probably won't," an official at the embassy in New Delhi said. "What happens to the Indian government now is probably more important determining what happens next than the

The negotiations between Mr. Sharif and Mr. Vajpayee seemed less likely to be dis-rupted by the missile tests than by a political ons, which have fought three wars in the past
I years.

Officials at the U.S. embassies in New rupted by the missile tests than by a political crisis that threatened to topple the Hindu unhappy that India and Pakistan had taken nationalist-led coalition government in India

that the missile test had assured India's national security. "The entire process of achieving a min-imum deterrent has been completed," he

Pakistan's decision to respond with one test firing, and possibly a second missile shot, was motivated more by the need to show that it could stand up to its bigger and more powerful neighbor than by any strategic or technical need to test its missiles, nuclear analysts

The Indian government lost its parliamentary majority Wednesday when its largest

coalition partner withdrew its support. If Mr.

Vajpayee's coalition loses its majority in the

lower house, Mr. Vajpayee himself will be out

of power. It is not clear who would replace

launch the Agni as his year-old government

faced what was clearly the gravest threat yet to

its survival, and he declared on Wednesday

Mr. Vajpayee thus made the decision to

Last May, it successfully tested a Ghauri missile with the potential to strike deep into

"Last year, India did five nuclear tests, and Pakistan did six," said George Perkovich, a nuclear analyst and author of a soon-to-bepublished history of India's nuclear-weapons

This year, India tests one missile, Pakistan may test two," Mr. Perkovich said. "As the smaller state, you have to show you have great resolve. You'll match and see it

BRIEFLY

Explosives Seized in Poland

WARSAW — Polish police announced Wednesday the seizure of 175 kilograms (385 pounds) of explosives, including enough Semtex to make 700 bombs, a police spokesman said. Four people were arrested.

The explosives, hidden in casks that had been buried on a farm near Sandonnerz, were intended for criminal organizations around the country, the spokesman said. Criminals have resorted increasingly to bomb attacks to settle accounts among rival groups or to extort money, the police said.

Romanians Dislike Free Market

BUCHAREST - Nearly 10 years after communism was ousted from their country, many Romanians maintain they would be better off with one party and a mostly state-

controlled economy, a poll showed Wednesday.

Seventy-one percent of the people interviewed said
they "only slightly" agreed with a market economy. Seventy-six percent said Romanians' main priority should be to increase living standards and reduce un-

employment and inflation.

A couple of years ago, most respondents wanted Romania to join NATO and the European Union. According to the poll, just 6 percent consider those issues to be

Venezuelan Seeks End of Court

CARACAS — President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela said it was necessary not only to dissolve Congress, but also the Supreme Court — raising the stakes in his confrontation with the other two branches of government. Appearing on television late Tuesday, the president

said a constituent assembly rewriting the constitution should shut down Congress and the courts and "from there sow the seeds of a new nation.'

Earlier in the day, protesters blocked the entrance to Congress and attacked the leader of Venezuela's lower house as he tried to leave the building.

For the Record

Eight ancient Roman ships discovered near Pisa will be unearthed in June, the archaeologist in charge of the dig said Wednesday.

Abdel Basset Ali Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, the two Libyans accused of the 1988 airliner bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, were ordered to stand trial during a final preliminary court hearing Wednesday at Camp Zeist, the Netherlands.

The United States signed a \$37 million agreement Wednesday to assist the Kenyan victims of the bomb attack last year on the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. (Reuters)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reputation for television savvy was shaken, many commentators said Wednesday, by his lackluster performance in a debate with Yitzhak Mordechai of the Center Party. (AFP)

President Nelson Mandela declared formally on Wednesday in Pretoria that June 2 will be the date for the election to end his leadership of South Africa. (Reuters)

There is to be no inquiry into the assassination of President Ibrahim Bare Mainassara of Niger, a spokes-man for the junta declared. "His death really was accidental," Captain Diibrila Hima Hamidou told a news. conference Tuesday in Niamey, the capital. (AFP)

Marxist rebels in Colombia have freed six hostages from among the 46 passengers and crew members they seized after hijacking a commercial airliner. (Reuters)

tained a reddish-orange residue that they said was left by a missile. They each face as much UNIONDALE, New York — A federal was left by a missile. They each face as much gury convicted a Virginia couple of conspiring as 10 years in prison when sentenced on July dicated the reddish-orange substance on the

theory that the jetliner was hit by an errant Navy missile,

wife, Elizabeth, a former TWA flight-attend-ant instructor, appeared stunned Tuesday when the jury delivered its verdict after less than two hours of deliberation.

The two were found guilty of conspiracy, as well as aiding and abetting in the theft of two small strips of passenger-seat fabric that con-

during a quarrelsome session, to post-

The decision to freeze the process

until May 13-15 was reached on a vote of

241 to 63. It came before lawmakers had

even agreed to cancel a session set for

Thursday during which the five-count hearing was to begin.
Mr. Yeltsin's Communist foes in Par-

peachment vote until they can amend the

munist leaders fear that if the ballot is

rules — some party members may defect

liament are leading the call for his attempt ouster, hut they do not want an im-

pone an impeachment debate against

President Boris Yeltsin.

to steal evidence from the wreckage of Trans 9, but the assistant U.S. attorney prosecuting seat fabric was residue from missile exhaust, World Airlines Flight 800 to back up their the case. David Pitofsky, said that under seneral evidence that the plane had been accidentally

2 Convicted in Theft of TWA Crash Material

prised by the verdict and that the jury rendered it so quickly. It can't help but send a strong and ohvious message to journalists seeking to tell the touth "

Debate on Ousting Yeltsin Set for May

Russia Parliament Approves One-Month Delay in Session on Impeachment

Compiled by Our Sing From Department Yakushkin, quickly denounced the MOSCOW — The lower house of the move. "All the fuss off the last few days

that the motion has been and remains

purely political," Mr. Yakushkin said on NTV television.

A committee spent months formn-

lating the charges against Mr. Yeltsin.

The impeachment motion, which re-

quires a two-thirds majority in both houses of Parliament and approval by

the two highest Russian courts, is con-

sidered likely to fail, as have previous

slipped because of his frequent illnesses

crisis. The motion is expected to have a

A committee charged Mr. Yeltsin with instigating the 1991 Soviet col-

policies that impoverished much of the

Still, Mr. Yeltsin's influence has

Russian Parliament voted Wednesday, and even hours, all these actions show

rules and hold an open ballot. The Com- and Russia's continuing economic

The Duma's delays have angered Mr. lapse, improperly using force against Yeltsin, who has accused his opponents hard-line lawmakers in 1993, launching

secret — as stipulated under current slightly better chance than before.

In his book, "The Downing of TWA Flight tencing guidelines, they would probably be fired noon when it exploded only 12 minotes sentenced to far less time.

> The couple was charged under a law approved by Congress in 1996, after the Vahulet crash in Florida, that makes it illegal to remove, conceal or withhold parts of a civilian aircraft involved in an accident.

Russia moved Wednesday to with-

draw an arrest warrant for the tycoon

Boris Berezovsky, just two weeks after charging the Kremlin insider with bilk-ing hundreds of millions of dollars from

the Aeroflot state airline, Agence France-Presse reported from Moscow.

The decision capped a mystifying month of politics that included a dec-

laration by the Russian interior minister

that he would not follow orders to arrest Mr. Berezovsky should the tycoon re-

The Russian chief prosecutor, mean-while, is himself still facing criminal

corruption charges after a period of mudslinging that included the national broadcast of a tape purporting to show

Mr. Berezovsky had been accused of illegal business activities and of mis-

He and another top Aeroflot executive were charged with transferring most of

Aeroflot's hard-currency profits to a

turn to Moscow from abroad.

him in bed with two prostitutes.

senior government posts.

fake company in Switzerland

The defendants, James Sanders, the author of a 1997 book promoting the theory, and his Tuesday, Mr. Sanders said: "We were surrejected the missile theory and says its tests show that the residue is fabric glue.

using his office while holding a series of Russian workers in St. Petersburg giving a spring cleaning to street lights near the historic Smoiny Cathedral.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Museum Honors Japanese Admiral TOKYO (AP) - A wing from a bomber, an English Bible

and other personal artifacts are among the items on display at a museum opening Sunday that is dedicated to the Japanese admiral who planned the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Isoroku Yamamoto opposed Japan's alliance with Italy and Germany, fearing war with the United States, but once he decided there was no alternative heartstate and the latest and the latest are the second of the latest and the latest are the latest at the l decided there was no alternative, he masterminded the attack on Pearl Harbor that brought the United States into World War II. U.S. participation in the war then resulted in Japan's defeat. The museum in Nagaoka, Mr. Yamamoto's hometown, also will display the admiral's calligraphy lamenting the war.

A Miami man suspected of leading an organized gang that preyed on foreign tourists in the early 1990s has been seutenced to prison. A district judge sentenced David Harrell, 31, to 235 mooths behind bars.

To Our Readers The Wednesday editions of

the Herald Tribune were late or unavailable in some parts of Europe, the United States and in Indonesia because of transmission problems. We regret the inconvenience.

WEATHER Europe

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Starr Urges End to Independent Counsel Statute, Calling It Flawed

By Neil A. Lewis New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - Kenneth Starr, who came to embody the independent counsel law as he pursued a variety of allegations about President Bill Clinton for almost five years, said Wednesday that he now believes the United States would be better off if the law years allegated to arrive better off if the law were allowed to expire.

"The statute should not be reauthorized." Mr.

Starr said bluntly in testimony before the Senate Committee on Government Affairs, which is considering what to do about the law that provides for the appointment of independent counsels like Mr. Starr. The statute is set to expire at the end of June.

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Instead, Mr. Starr argued, the authority to investigate politically sensitive cases involving senior administration officials should be returned to the Justice Department and the attorney general with Congress and the press keeping watch.

ED. — with Congress and the press keeping watch.

He said in his testimony that the law has many serious flaws and, most important, has not achieved its main purpose, which is to provide the public with a sense that investigations of a political associate, the law opens the door for

figures like the president are free from par- independent counsels to be criticized as overly received an expansion of his original jurisdiction. Lewinsky matter and his advocacy of impeach-

too partisan, that he was portrayed as a Republican out to get a Democratic president and that the public did not, in the end, have great

confidence in what he was doing.
"The assaults took a toll," he said. "A duly authorized federal law-enforcement investigation came to be characterized as yet another political game. Law became politics by other means." As a result, he said, "the statutory mechanism intended to enhance confidence in law enforcement thus had the effect of weakening it."

general, had an inherent conflict in investigating the president or fellow cabinet officers.

But Mr. Starr argoed that the opposite has occurred. Rather than assuring that the investigation is not too soft because it is conducted by

tisanship.

Referring to his own experience, Mr. Starr
lamented that his investigation was criticized as to be seen as political," Mr. Starr said. He has been ferociously criticized by supporters of Mr. Clinton and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

At the same time, Mr. Starr has faced widespread criticism from those who argued that his efforts were not partisan but were, nonetheless, ill-considered and frequently lacking any sense of proportion.

Mr. Starr's statement was defensive as well over the criticism of the expanding scope of his investigation, which began with questions about Whitewater, a land deal in Arkansas in which the Clintons invested before they came to the White

The inquiry eventually incloded such unconnected topics as the dismissal of employees in the White House travel office, the improper col-lection of confidential FBI files on some Republicans in the Clinton White House and, most famously, the president's intimate relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Each time, Mr. Starr

which had been in investigate only the White-

In his testimony, Mr. Starr said that "the number of expansions is unique and it may have fed the misconception that we were investigating individuals rather than crime."

"Let me make clear: That was not the case." He argued in his statement that he did not seek to investigate some of those subjects but had them pressed on him by the Justice Department. But investigating Ms. Lewinsky's relations with the president, the area that attracted the greatest criticism, was something Mr. Starr sought.

He also criticized the independent counsel statute, which he said obliged him to report to Congress any offenses by the president that might have been worthy of impeachment.

His referral to Congress charged that Mr. Clinton had committed several impeachable offenses, including perjury and obstruction of justice. The report led to a months-long ordeal during which the House voted to impeach the president, but the Schate voted to acquit him. For Mr. Starr's critics, his investigation of the patrols because of the surge in victims."

ment were the principal examples of his excessive zeal.

In his prepared testimooy, Mr. Starr defended himself, saying that the statute compelled him to offer a detailed explanation of the president's

alleged offenses.
"We could have shipped the raw evidence with nothing more last fall," he said. But he said he believed he had to bring some "order and coherence to the information.

■ Starr's Comments Are a Surprise

Mr. Starr's comments surprised some observers who have watched him pursue the president

aggressively for five years.

'If you live long enough, you'll experience everything,' Senator Robert Torricelli, Democrat of New Jersey and Government Affairs Committee member, said after listening to Mr. Starr. Senator Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, who is not a Governmental Affairs member, issued

a statement declaring Mr. Starr's remarks "like Jack the Ripper calling for more neighborhood

Judge Scolds Kevorkian

Sentencing Him to 10 to 25 Years in Prison, She Says Lawlessness Was the Trial's Issue

> By Dirk Johnson New York Times Service

Michigan judge who sentenced Dr. smiled as he was led out by bailiffs. Jack Kevorkian to 10 to 25 years in He had declined to speak in his prison said his flouting of the law defense. had given prosecutors and the courts

"This trial was not about the accountant who lived in suburban political or moral correctness of Detroit and suffered from enthanasia," Judge Jessica Cooper amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou of Oakland County Circuit Court Gehrig's disease. His widow, said. "It was about you, sir. It was about you, sir. It was about you, sir. It was about you wa about lawlessness."

The penalty was imposed Tuesday despite emotional courtroom pleas on Dr. Kevorkian's carried out the wishes of her behalf from the widow and brother husband. of the terminally ill man he was convicted of having killed. The 70-year-old defendant was also

denied bail. Referring to the "60 Minutes". television program that featured a would now suffer on his account."
videotape of Dr. Kevorkian's "My husband had come to the
administering the lethal injection end of his life as he chose it," she
that marked in the charge Index that resulted in the charges, Judge said. "He was not depressed. He Cooper said that the advocate of was not a victim." assisted suicide had "the audacity to But John Skrzynski, the go on national television, show the prosecutor, said Dr. Kevorkian had legal system to stop you. Well; sir, rally support for embanasia and consider yourself stopped.

The corridor outside the courtroom was crowded with his foes, who burst into applause after PONTIAC, Michigan - The the sentencing. Dr. Kevorkian

A jury convicted him on March 26 no choice but to remove him from of second-degree murder in the society.

of Thomas Youk, 52, an the court Tuesday that bitterly criticized prosecutors and cast Dr. Kevorkian as someone who had

Saying that she wished she had Youk said that her husband "would be greatly distressed that the man guidelines, who brought him peace at the end



Dr. Jack Kevorkian being led away by deputies in Pontiac, Michigan, after he was sentenced in his murder conviction.

"The defendant chose to put us in not a case where the prosecutor went looking for Kevorkian."

The doctor, who plans to appeal, his lawyers say, must serve more eligible for parole under Michigan

Judge Cooper told Dr. Kevorkian of a democratic society.

petition the voters. But you may not. Kevorkian dared prosecutors to file take the law into your own hands." charges against him.

This was the fifth time in a decade this sad situation," he said. "This is that prosecutors had tried Dr. Kevorkian in the deaths of seriously ill people. Three trials ended in acquittal and a fourth in a mistrial, In those cases, he was oot charged with been able to speak at the trial, Mrs. than six years before he will be murder hut with violating laws against assisted suicide.

But this trial, in which he insisted on defending himself, was different that whatever his views on because prosecutors were able to use euthanasia, he must follow the rules a videotape that Dr. Kevorkian made of himself injecting Mr. Youk with 'We are a nation of laws," she lethal chemicals in September. Dr. said. "We have a civilized and Kevorkian took the tape to the CBS nonviolent way of resolving conflict. News program "60 Minutes," You can criticize the law. You can which broadcast it in November world what you did and dare the used Mr. Youk as part of his effort to gripe. You can lecture. You can along with an interview in which Dr.

Clinton Unlikely to Appeal **Judge's Contempt Finding**

His Advisers See Relatively Mild Penalty as Acceptable

By Roberto Suro and John F. Harris Washington Post Service

order finding him in contempt of court for legally evasive to outright false. giving false testimony about his sexual re-

The contempt order issued Monday by Judge Susan Webber Wright of Arkansas strongly condemns Mr. Clintoo's efforts to hide his affair with Ms. Lewinsky from lawyers pressing the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit, but it carries relatively light

Several advisers to Mr. Clinton are recommending that he accept the sanctions imsome expenses, and refers Mr. Clinton's conduct to Arkansas judicial authorities for a ruling on his fitness to practice law - as an acceptable price for bringing closure to a legal controversy that has haunted his presidency

Although the prevailing assumption among Mr. Clinton's legal and political advisers is that he should not appeal, he has not been presented a final recommendation, sources said. Mr. Clinton's attorneys are still reviewwhether accepting the sanctions now might somehow expose Mr. Clinton to increased legal jeopardy if Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, chooses to pursue a criminal perjury case against the president in the future. Mr. Clinton's lawyers said they could also change their minds and decide to challenge the order if Judge Wright ended up setting a prohibitively high figure for reimbursement of Mrs. Jones's legal team.

Nonetheless, the most likely option, according to White House sources, is that the White House will announce within several

White House will announce within several days that, while it does not agree with Judge Wright's conclusion that Mr. Clinton lied

under oath, it has no plans to appeal.

Ever since he acknowledged his relatiooship with Ms. Lewinsky, the president has maintained that he was misleading, but legally accurate, when he testified in his January

1998 deposition that he was never alone with the former White House intern and did not have a sexual relationship with her.

Joe Lockhart, the White House press secretary, said Tuesday, "I don't believe the president has changed his view" that he did not lie in the Jones case.

But Mr. Clinton's side long ago conceded that "reasonable people," as Charles Ruff, the White House counsel, told the House last WASHINGTON -- President Bill Clinton December, might conclude that the presidoes not plan to challenge a federal judge's dent's testimony "crossed the line" from

Over the course of the past year, Mr. Clinlationship with Monica Lewsinky, according to has apologized for many things; for his to sources familiar with the advice he has extramarital relationship with Ms. Lewinsky, received from his attorneys and advisers. it and for the mistraction the episode caused to the nation.

But he remains convinced, according to aides, that it was appropriate for him to try to avoid telling the Jones lawyers about his affair with Ms. Lewinsky by providing what he described last December as 'difficult and ambiguous and unhelpful" answers.

Mr. Clinton's legal position is that he could posed by Judge Wright — which call for deny having a sexual relationship with Ms. compensating Mrs. Jones and her lawyers for Lewinsky because under his understanding of the definitions in the Jones case, having oral sex performed on him did not qualify as sex.

His position, according to aides, is that it was acceptable for him to mislead interrogators in a case he believed was illegitimate. As Mr. Clinton said when he first acknowledged his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky in a televised speech last Angust, "These questions were being asked in a politically inspired

Mr. Lockhart said the president had not, so ing the judge's order, studying in particular far as he knew, changed his view on the neys in Judge Wright's presence last year.

But in her ruling Monday, Judge Wright made clear how strongly she disagreed with that view. She concloded that Mr. Clinton had willfully disregarded her orders that he reveal to the Jones lawyers any sexual contact or sexual propositions involving government

citing Mr. Clinton's denial of a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky in his deposition, Judge Wright said, "The record demonstrates hy clear and coovincing evidence that the president responded to plaintiff's questions hy giving false, misleading and evasive answers that were designed to observe the indicial process." obstruct the judicial process."

In her order Monday, Judge Wright es-seotially warned Mr. Clintoo that challenging her decision could produce a protracted legal ordeal. "The president is hereby put on notice that this court will take evidence at any future hearings - incloding if necessary testimony from witnesses — on all matters concerning the president's conduct in this lawsuit which may warmant a finding of civil contempt."

Republican Hopefuls Lower Sights on Abortion

By Terry M. Neal and David Von Drehle Washington Post Service

time in two decades, most of the lead- Democrats, with their resistance to any ing Republican presidential candidates limits, are the inflexible ones. are trying to push an abortion ban off

This turn to the center reflects the the top of the party's agenda, removing from the political spottight one of the most divisive issues of a generation.

In the past few weeks, prominent Republican candidates — including Governor George Bush of Texas, Elizabeth Dole, Senator John McCain of Arizona and former Vice President Dan Quayle — have said the party should focus on other issues because America is not ready for a ban on abortion.

In the past few weeks, prominent House of Republican Party's pragmatic approach to the 2000 election after the loss of the last two presidential elections and with their majority in the House of Republican leaders plan to back off the abortion issue entirely.

"I think a lot of people on my side — the 'pro-life' side — have decided that making incremental progress is better than trying to throw the long bornb," said Haley Barbour, a former Republican Party chairman.

and social conservatives lashed out at
Bob Dole's desire to tone down the
party's platform on abortion, many
anti-abortion leaders appear willing

Dole, said that in one of her recent

on abortions and emphasizing the far their positions, most seem to agree the more limited ban on a late-term procedure that opponents call "partialbirth" abortion, Republican strategists WASHINGTON - For the first hope to paint a new picture in which

This turn to the center reflects the

party's platform on abortion, many anti-abortion leaders appear willing Dole, said that in one of her recent to play down a polarizing issue that surveys voters gave Democrats a 20-point edge over Republicans in toleration waters and perpentiated erating other points of view. 'I think

their positions, most seem to agree the party should coocentrate on initiatives over which a public consensus is stitutional ban. He said he opposed most possible: outlawing late-term abortion except in cases of rape, incest abortion, continuing the ban oo gov- and when the life of the woman is in erament funding for abortion and requiring parental consent for abortions Coalition, Pat Robertson, defended performed on minors.

Mrs. Dole, a former secretary of transportation and former secretary of labor, listed those goals as worthy and attainable in a letter to a supporter made public last week hy her campaign. She stressed she was ''prolife,'' but called on her party to accept people who disagreed on the issue.

She wrote that she would support the idea of a constitutional ban oo abortion if it were possible for such an amendment to be approved. "But of course, it's not," she wrote. "It's not

going to happen because the American people do not support it."

The executive director of the Christian Coalition, Randy Tate, said the political environment within the party had evolved in a way that made statements such as Mrs. Dole's acceptable to many who oppose abortion.

Mr. Tate said many anti-abortion

leaders had made a strategic decision to

and when the life of the woman is in danger. The founder of the Christian Mr. Bush, insisting that the governor was 'profoundly pro-life.'
Mr. McCain opposes abortion, but

he has said the party should restore language from the 1980 platform plank that recognized different views on the issue within the party.

Mr. Quayle also is promoting a pragmatic approach. "You can pass a partial-hirth abortion ban, and I would are the said to be a sound of the said to be a sound or the said to be a said to be a sound or the said to be a sound or the said to be a sound or the said to be a said to be

do that right away," he said last week. He also suggested that only abortion foes should be named as federal judges. "That's about it for what you can achieve," he said.

Not every Republican hopeful agrees. Gary Bauer, who ran the con-servative Family Research Council before stepping down to explore a run for president, issued a news release Monday challenging Mrs. Dole's "retreat" on abortion.

And Greg Mueller, a spokesman for the publisher Steve Forbes, said that as president Mr. Forbes would use "the bully pulpit" to promote a constitutional ban.

In Tomorrow's IHT

Peisure

Travel deals, art exhibits, restaurant reviews and movie guides are just a few of the things you'll find in the Leisure pages. Written with the international reader in mind, this column offers a broad range of options on how to spend leisure time, regardless of where in the world you may be traveling. Every Friday in the International Herald Tribune.

Herald Eribune THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Away From Politics

- A 54-year-old Chilean immigrant and a live-in baby migrant and a live in baby sitter in Braintree, Massachusents, came forward Wednesday to claim the \$197 million Big Game jackpot, the largest lottery prize ever won by an individual in U.S. history. (AP)

Two Florida whooping cranes have produced the first eggs laid in the U.S. wild in decades, raising hopes that the birds will make a (AP) comeback.

In an assault on endangered species, a commercial fishing vessel hit a reef off the Hawaiian island of Kanai, spilling about 16,000 gallons of diesel fuel. (AP)

O.J. Simpson wrestled with a gunman who tried to Tob him in the parking lot of a golf course in Los Angeles.

Mr. Simpson, who was cleared in 1995 in his estranged wife's murder, chased the gumman in his car while -calling the police on a cellular

[Announcing his candidacy in his

This Dan Quayle decided to go flat-out for the vice presidency in 1988 behometown, Mr. Quayle called the 1990s cause he was at roughly the same age at which Theodore and Franklin D. While he still shows no and Al Gore," and he pledged to restore integrity and responsibility to the White House in 2001, The Associated Press self. Having chimbed go many steps so produces fewer blunders. quickly, he cannot imagine stopping

f"The time has come to reset the moral compass," Mr. Quayle told a cheering crowd at Huntington North High School. "We must not stand by and let our values be trashed."]

Dan Quayle, the human punch line, scorned on scores of Internet sites, shoon for the late-night talk show Hall of Fame.

Guickly, he cannot imagine stopping short of the top.

"He doesn't buy the media image of ficial still in the fray. He has strong conservative credentials without a tinge of the extreme. He has had time children and just one wife.

But in the calculus of the Republican elite, those pluses can't offset the One lite in the race to whom he sees no one else in the race to whom he should defer."

should defer." The man who said: 'I didn't live in So it is that Dan Quayle, oow 52, is chiks have stampeded past their former sitting for an interview, laying out with vice president to embrace Governor And, at an AIDS clinic during the calm self-confidence his plan for win-George Bush of Texas.

By David Von Drehle

Washington Past Service

WASHINGTON — Dan Quayle does not see himself as others see him.

That is the key, according to his friends and close advisers. It is why Mr. Quayle announced Wednesday, in his boyhood home of Huntington, Indiana, that he is running for president of the United States. In interviews he says quite confidently that he is going to win.

Pay no attention to those early polls that show him drawing single-digit sup
early days of the drug AZT: "Are they taking DDT?"

And, "What a waste it is to lose one's mindion. The American people are, he insists, fundamentally fair, and when he offers them his experience and his forceign policy expertise, they will consider him anew. He will explode to an early victory — a dazzling debate performance, perhaps, followed by a victory in the lowa caucuses or the New Hampshire primary and then, zoom.

It's not easy chasting the Republican presidential nomination. The American people are, he insists, fundamentally fair, and when he offers them his experience and his forceign policy expertise, they will consider him anew. He will explode to an early victory — a dazzling debate performance, perhaps, followed by a victory in the lowa caucuses or the New Hampshire primary and then, zoom.

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It's not easy chasting the Republican presidential nomination. The American people are, he insists, fundamentally fair, and when he insists, fundamentally fair, and when he insists, fundamentally fair, and when he offers them his experience and his forceign policy expertise, they will consider them are the insists, fundamentally fair, and when he insists, fundamentally fair, an

Pay no attention to those early polls the age of 29; conqueror four years later knocks, some run to champion a partiant show him drawing single-digit support, miles behind the early favorites.

Mr. Quayle says he likes being the understanding the digit of the liberal stalwart Birch Bayh to enter the Senate; victorious as vice pressured to the same of the liberal stalwart Birch Bayh to enter the Senate; victorious as vice pressured to the same factorious as vice pressured to the same factorious and some to the same factorious and some people fund because opportunity knocks, some run to champion a particular agenda and some — maybe most inclinated to the same factorious and some factorious and some

is this last type.

Mr. Quayle says he began weighing a presidential bid in his 30s.

While he still shows no sign that he will ever become an orator, in his maturity he speaks with some poise and

As a former vice president, he is the

strategists, local officials and apparat-

the party's image of intolerance. Party polls have shown that many of these swing voters, holding conflicting views on abortion; perceived Republicans to be inflexible. By dropping the banner of a constitutional ban and the party's image of intolerance. Party polls have shown that many of these swing voters, holding conflicting views on abortion; perceived Republicans to win this campaign." The debate is loaded with mannees, but as the Republican candidates state means have changed. move the debate incrementally. "The end remains the same," he said, but the In the Mirror, Quayle Sees a President

phone. He gave up because the man was running red lights and officers had pulled Mr. Simpson over. (AP)

Fame. The man with this century."

And, at an

UN force.

The Battle for Kosovo / A Ground Force for NATO Still Raises Questions

Months of Delay Seen Before Troops Could Enter Balkans Combat

By Bradley Graham Washington Post Service

leaders sidestep questioos about the possibility of sending ground troops to was sending 700 more soldiers, Kosovo, some of the U.S. and European In Albania, more than 2,00 donia and Albania, countries from where, defense experts say, a ground assault would likely be launched.

A contingent of nearly 11,000 NATO force into Kosovo but oow assisting refugees from the shattered Serbian

Continued from Page 1

deadlock, the plan for a first step to settle

the Kosovo crisis was put forward by Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer of

party whose pacifist roots must be kept

in mind hy Mr. Fischer, himself a

are going to handle the diplomacy of the

end-game" and get acceptance of

In Washington, Joe Lockhart, the White House spokesman, said: "We

will address a potential cessation of

But James Ruhin, the State Depart-ment spokesman, said the German sug-

gestioo was constructive and "within NATO parameters."

as reported from Bonn, were likely to be

more cootroversial, even though they

seemed to be less an olive branch to Mr.

Milosevic than an attempt to enlist Mos-

cow's backing for an intensified peace

effort in parallel with the North Atlantic

For that, Mr. Fisher seemed ready to

a robust core force to handle peace-

'permanently suspend' air strikes.

The full details of Mr. Fischer's plan,

bomhing when we get there."

NATO's terms.

cial Democrat, includes the Greens, a intervened.

NATO: Bonn Proposes Respite in Bombing

Apparently hoping to avoid a bloody turn and Kosovo would be put under UN

Germany, which oow holds the rotating certainly be unacceptable to the United

EU presidency.

Germany's coalitioo government, led hy Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, a Sohy Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, a Soof the UN effort in Bosnia until NATO

At NATO, Mr. Shea said that the the Security Council, an initiative that

German suggestion was "useful and the allies agreed was essential to cirnecessary to start reflection on how we current a Russian veto.

Anticipating an operation in Kosovo

WASHINGTON — Even as NATO Macedonia, equipped with tanks and from 24. other armored vehicles. France said it

soldiers who could take part in an in-expected NATO contingent of 8,000 to do with a NATO invasion force. vasing have begun to assemble in Mace- troops have arrived, also to help with refugee relief efforts. They have no combat mission. But a U.S. Army task force being airlifted in — with AH-64A force, and it woold require months to Apache helicopters, missile and rocket assemble and prepare for hattle. troops is in Macedonia, seot there weeks batteries, tanks and armored troop carago to lead an expected peacekeeping riers — will be establishing the first signed for cross-border operations against Yogoslav forces.

Defense officials disclosed that Gen-

move into Kosovo as Serbian forces

withdrew, Kosovo refugees would re-

administration until completion of a per-

maneot peace settlement.

A UN command role would almost

States and to Britain and France, all of

But some UN role, in European eyes.

European officials said that they

wanted to pre-empt any U.S. attempt to

enshrine this degree of independence in

alliance doctrine at the NATO summit meeting in Washingtoo this month. Defending their plan and also explain-

ing Mr. Annan's presence at the EU summit meeting, German officials said that they hoped to strike a chord with

Moscow and draw Russia away from

Belgrade into a diplomatic froot against

Mr. Milosevic.

offsets the precedeot of NATO attacking Serbia without an explicit mandate from

- whether peace enforcement or com- eral Wesley Clark, the NATO com- sive preparation ahead of an invasion. bat - Britain announced that it was mander, had requested doubling the sending an additional 1,800 troops to oumber of Apaches slated to go, to 48

Still, military officials say the stationing of allied ground units along the George Joulwan, General Clark's presouthern rim of Yugoslavia has nothing decessor. "You've got to train the force; In Albania, more than 2,000 of an southern rim of Yugoslavia has nothing

Any NATO attempt to invade Yugoslavia and seize territory, they add,

been little detailed planning for such a quired for NATO to fight its way into reported staging area in Albania de- force and no political decision to start Kosovo, and 200,000 troops would be down that path. Even units that are in the oecessary to win full control of Serbia, region hut have been diverted to refugee according to Pentagon officials. relief operations would require exten-

"We can't have troops passing out hlankets one day, and then tell those same forces to conduct combat operations the next," said retired General

you've got to prepare them." Preliminary estimates drawn up by alliance planners last summer found that likely would involve a much larger 8,000 troops would be needed just to secure the border between Albania and Kosovo, the southernmost province of ing began. In the meantime, they say, there has Serbia; 75,000 soldiers would be re-

Those assessments preceded

paign, according to defense experts. to dig in and lay mines at the few entry They say NATO infantry units would routes into the remote province. still face formidable challenges from rugged terrain and determined resistance by Yugoslav troops, estimated at 40,000 in and around Kosovo before the bomb-

The ground option has gained favor among many lawmakers and others who have argued that the United States and its allies should at least prepare for an invasion in the event NATO warplanes are unable to force President Slobodan Mi-

NATO air strikes pounding Yugoslav air defenses and doing other damage that cial police units out of Kosovo. But esumably would weaken the threat to military specialists say mounting such a ground operation would be tough and Nonetheless, a ground attack offers no risky, especially against Yugoslav troops who have had ample opportunity

"In the present circumstances, the potential loss of life among our servicemen and women, to say nothing of civilians, would be considerable, Prime Minister Tony Blair said while announcing the dispatch of the additional British troops to Macedonia.

Clinton administration officials have expressed concern that any move to constitute an alliance invasion force would trigger a divisive debate that could undercut sopport here and in Europe for the

"The first thing that needs to be decided is the objective of an invasion," said a European diplomat involved in policy-making on Kosovo. "Would it be to flush Yugoslav forces out of Kosovo and return the refugees, or kick Milosevic out of Belgrade? Whichever of those you choose will have signif-icant implications on the size of the force required and the means to be

Geographically, an assault from Hungary, north of Serbia, into Belgrade would be most inviting because it would take NATO forces across largely flat, open terrain, according to military specialists. But it also would require the largest force and likely would encounter the greatest resistance from Serbian forces determined to defend their homeland and capital.

-711/114

A more limited attack aimed solely at securing Kosovo would involve fewer NATO forces, but finding routes into the province across the mountainous borders with Macedonia and Albania poses formidable difficulties. Just establishing ports, airfields and staging areas for massing tens of thousands of NATO troops in these two countries, which are among Europe's poorest, presents los gistic nightmares.

"Not only are the border crossings themselves difficult, but the routes to them are pretty nonexistent," the diplomat said.

'In Albania, there's oot much of a rail network and the airports are poor. In Macedonia, you have at least a couple of main rail routes hut there's only one main road basically up from the port of Thessaloniki."

Yugoslav forces, in evident preparation to defend against a NATO mvasion, have been digging in along both major routes into Kosovo from Macedonia, scooping out trenches and huildficials. They also have been laying mines along Kosovo borders.



Rebels from the Kosovo Liberation Army heading off to the front lines along the Albanian border Wednesday.

Mr. Annan, who met earlier with NATO officials and with Prime Minister Tooy Blair of Britain, has been cautious

about any role he might play.

The overture to Moscow was backed by France and by the Clintoo admin-

istration. Officials in Washington have Treaty Organization air war, which has alienated Russian leaders and many cit-said that President Boris Yeltsin has been put on the defensive in his own country against nationalists. Mr. Yeltsin, while move away from NATO's insistence oo denouncing the NATO strikes against a fellow Slavic country, has avoided any keeping in Kosovo and replace it with a move to help Belgrade militarily.

President Alexander Lukashenko of Once a Serbian pullout has been com-Belarus reportedly met in Belgrade oo Wednesday with Mr. Milosevic. Mr. the conflict intensified. pleted, the plan said, NATO would Lukasbenko, the first foreign leader to

Reports of his Belgrade visit prompted a quick warning from Moscow against any attempt to drag Russia into a military conflict over Kosovo.

So far, there have been no signs of any divergences among allied governments about the war with Mr. Milosevic, even in countries such as Italy and Greece, where the NATO campaign is unpopular and could become a political problem as

NATO warplanes were reported

ago, was exploring Serbian interest in loss of electricity affects civilians as copters, which are expected in the region joining a loose pact between Belarus and much as the military, and the new targeting suggested that NATO, while cootinuing to cot bridges and supply lines to isolate and weaken Serbian forces in Kosovo, was also going to make the war more painful for ordinary Serbians.

The air strike on the Bistrica hydroelectric power plant was accompanied ships. by an attack on a major food-processing factory in Valjevo, amid reports of food rationing in Serbia for the first time.

Militarity, NATO spokesmen said leave that allied military prospects were improving with the prospect of better flying weather as more aircraft arrived, includ-A three-stage process would follow: a visit Belgrade since the start of the heavily armed UN military force would NATO bombing campaign three weeks generating system for the first time. The ing the first Apache ground attack heli-

in the next few days.

Another potential flashpoint was the

sence of the tiny Serbian Navy in Mootenegro, the small Yngoslav republic oo the Adriatic that has been trying to keep out of the conflict and that is now in a dispote with Belgrade about the

Arguing that the Serbian vessels are liable to draw NATO fire, protesters in Montenegro have called for them to.

But Yugoslavia has no port outside . Montenegro and might use any threat to ing bunkers, according to defense of the ships' presence as a pretext to overthrow the pro-Western government.



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Tents for Lucky Ones Continued from Page 1

they have not found a source of disposable diapers. Life in Kukes: It is unimaginably bad Week 3 for the refugees, and fe

children it is unimaginably worse. There are oo sinks, no showers, no toilets, no toilet paper. The water is giving more and more children diarrhea, and without toilet paper the only thing parents can use to clean their children is

the very water that is making them ill. There are also increasing oumbers of cases of scabies, head lice and bronchitis, and as of Monday seven cases of measles had been reported.
"My goodness," Olara Otunnu, UN

undersecretary for children in armed conflict, kept saying as he toured the

refugee camps.

And then there is the matter of toys.

"The children are playing with garbage," Elvana Zhezhia, of the Albanian Center for Human Rights, told Mr. Otunnu On the day before, when Carol Bel-

lamy, head of Unicef, was touring Kukes and asked Ms. Zhezhia what was needed, she said, "Everything." So far, though, oothing has arrived.
"Maybe today," she is saying. She is

standing near the mosqoe, near the steps, which have become an unofficial headquarters for the relief efforts aimed specifically at children. She is helping to coordinate a therapy program for tranmatized children. She wants colored pencils for them to draw with. She wants paper, dolls and balls. All that Ms. Zhezhia has, though, is a

team of three people who have taken a two-week course oo psychosocial trauma therapy. One of them, a doctor named Feride Rushiti, is leading dozens of children in what amounts to an attempt at group therapy.

She motions them into a circle. One by

one, they tell quiet stories about what happened to them in Kosovo, and then they recite verses they learned when they appened to them in Kosovo, and then they recite verses they learned when they it they ask Ms. Zhezhia every day.

"Sooo," she always tells them.
"Very soon," which is the answer she tells herself as well. She, too, is from the same was in a Unicer car on the way to other parts of Knkes.

But as the car moved along the streets: she was the one depressed enough to learn her head against the window and cry. lived in a place that had schools to teach



An ethnic Albanian refugee carrying a crying child Wednesday through a refugee camp marked by mud puddles in Kukes, Albania. About 100,000 refugees from the Kosovo fighting are now in the northern town of Kukes.

this point with the children, other than pat their backs or rub their heads or touch "If you say, 'Not soon,' they will be their cheeks or hold their hands, which she does over and over.

"When will we go back to Kosovo?"

more depressed than they are," she said after the children scattered from the

But as the car moved along the streets;

CONVOY: Yugoslavia Reports 75 Refugees Killed in NATO Raid

Continued from Page 1

rovince, a Pentagon official said. in the village of Meja, 64 people were According to Jeff Roward of the killed and 20 wounded, including three province, a Pentagon official said. World Food Program, refugees crossing the Albanian border said they saw three convoy." aircraft drop three bombs that hit two tractors, killing many people. Other refugees said they saw dead, mutilated between Djakovica and Prizren, further bodies by the road, including those of women and children, Mr. Roward said.

Mr. Bacon said the incident Wedoesday was being investigated, which he said "may take some time." aid worker said he had spoken to refugees who witnessed the attack and convoy," he said. "We are quite sure we hit only military vehicles. We will ob-

viously review what happened."

No independent confirmation was immediately available.

On the Albanian side of the border, an could not say whether the aircraft were NATO planes.

ously review what happened."

Nebojsa Vujovic, a Yogoslav Foreign

"There were two separate attacks," a Ministry spokesman, said, "NATO Serbian official in Pristina said. "In one bombs created a new humanitarian ca-

in the village of Zrze, six people were killed and 11 wounded. In another one, in the village of Meja, 64 people were homes from the border with Albaria.

"The bodies are literally littered on the highway," he said, denouncing the strike as a "crime against humanity." The attacks occurred at 1 P.M. and between 2.20 P.M. and 3 P.M., Yugoslav sources said

Pictures taken by a Reuters photographer, escorted to the scene by Serbian officials, also showed people with hor-rific face injuries being treated and a small boy wandering through the scene carrying a plastic bag.

At least two tractors and a horse and cart were visible on the road, which was strewn with mattresses, pillows and blankets as well as human remains. (AFP, AP, Reuters, IHT)

المن الدموا

A Dissenting Voice in Belgrade

Deputy Prime Minister Attacks Alliance With Russia and Belarus

By Steven Erlanger

BELGRADE — The most liberal member of the Yugoslav government has sharply attacked the use of Serbian has sharply attacked the use of Serbian ferences and insignias," attacking in par-wartime patriotism for ideological and ticular the re-emergence of the old compolitical ends, throwing down an in-direct challenge to President Slobodan Milosevic and his nationalist and leftist allies, including Mr. Milosevic's wife.

In two extraordinary statements over the last two days, the deputy prime min-ister of Yugoslavia, Vuk Draskovic, has become the only official voice to condemn both the murder on Sunday of an opposition publisher, Slavko Curuvija, and proposals for Yugoslavia to form an

alliance with Russia and Belarus.
"May Slavko Curuvija be the first and last victim of those in Serbia who want to start the mad spiral of fratricide," Mr. Draskovic said Monday night on the Belgrade television station, Studio B, which is controlled by his Serbian Renewal

to manipulate the patriotism and unity of years later, start building communism all the Serbs in wartime, saying: "All over again. This must oot happen." parties should temporarily bury their dif-

munist partisan flag, with its red star.
On Tuesday, Mr. Draskovic went forther in attacking the idea of an alliance with Russia and Belarus, which won overwhelming support Monday from the Yugoslay Parliament.

The alliance is strongly supported by the Yugoslav Left Party of Mr. Milo-sevic's powerful wife, Mirjana Markovic, who envisions a new communist bloc with Yugoslavia at its heart. President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus was expected in Belgrade on Wednesday to meet with Mr. Milosevic.

"There are political forces who think

we should enter the 21st century on the ruins of a destroyed state," Mr. Dras-

Movement, which governs Belgrade. up picks and shovels with the same He also called on political parties not songs, the same iconography, and 50 He also attacked the ultranationalistic

Radical Party of Deputy Prime Minister Vojislav Seselj for bringing its own ban-ners and pictures of Mr. Seselj to the daily Belgrade rock concerts organized by the city. When they did so Monday, the organizers asked them to put down their banners, and the rock band, Del Arno, stopped playing until the Seselj followers dispersed.

If such efforts to misuse and manipulate unity continue, Mr. Draskovic said, the concerts will stop. "And I don't believe that anyone has the right to lower their heads while journalists are being murdered," Mr. Draskovic continued. The state of war does not mean that civic courage should be trampled upon."

Mr. Draskovic, who was one of the



Deputy Prime Minister Vuk Draskovic challenges the regime.

Milosevic government last year in what his former allies considered an act of opportunism. Mr. Draskovic failed to win support for a compromise on Kosovo that might have prevented the NATO bombwe should enter the 21st century on the ruins of a destroyed state," Mr. Dras-leaders of the pro-democracy demonstrate the bombing began, he has become an effective kovic said. "They think we should pick strations of 1996 and 1997, joined the spokesman for the Serbian cause.

War Crimes Panel Seeks NATO Aid on Milosevic

Alliance Slow to Give Evidence, Officials Say

By Marlise Simons New York Times Service

THE HAGUE - Prosecutors at the international war crimes tribunal have built a strong case to indict Presideot Slobodan Milosevic of Yogoslavia, dip-lomats and lawyers close to the tribunal say. But they say the prosecutors are depending on NATO governments for crucial links that they need to bolster

their case. The tribunal still refuses to confirm officially that it is investigating Mr. Milosevic. But prosecutors concede that they have been pursuing the Yugoslav

"It is right to say that our focus is at the top end," said Graham Blewitt, the deputy prosecutor of the tribunal, which was set op by the United Nations in 1993. The diplomats say tribunal investigators have focused on Mr. Milosevic for almost a year.
As reports of Yugoslav forces killing

and terrorizing ethnic Albanians have grown, the court has been inundated with questions aboot when it will indict Mr. Milosevic on war crimes charges.

Officials at the tribunal have responded with frustration, saying they have been delayed because NATO member countries have been slow to provide vital information about the inner workings of the Yugoslav political and military com-

Investigators say the issue is oot to collect evidence of more crimes in Kosovo. Rather, they argue, they oeed to demonstrate what orders were given, who was involved and what knowledge commanders had of crimes committed by subordinates.

Of course we have a lot of evidence of crime in Kosovo," Mr. Blewitt said. We can now indict people in the chain of command. But it's a question of what level. We could go faster if we had the right evidence about the top."

The chief prosecutor, Louise Arbour, will visit NATO headquarters in Brussels oo Wednesday to ask the allies for greater cooperation in sharing their intelligence. The information she oeeds is likely to be highly classified and in-cludes interceptions of radio, telephone computer communications, which

NATO countries have so far withheld. NATO and British and American officials have said they bave informatioo that they will give the tribunal.

"Bot we're not seeing the goods," Mr. Blewitt said. "We're oot getting

losevic and the reported brutal action of his forces in Kosovo appears simple NATO blasted a buge crater at the other enough; be is the Yugoslav head of state

and commander in chief of the armed forces, and Kosovo, a Serbian province, is part of Yugoslavia.

Milosevic accountable now than during the war in Bosnia, which he instigated and backed but from which he took care to keep a formal distance as president of

very adept at avoiding paper trails and warrant to Yugoslavia.



Mr. Milosevic, back to camera, embracing President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, in Belgrade for a state visit Wednesday.

evading interceptions during the war that broke up Yugoslavia, specialists say. He can also answer some of the pros-

ecution charges. For example, one investigator said, in the case of Kosovo, Mr. Milosevic can produce a written order saying that all troops in the Yugoslav Army must behave in accordance with the law and that any offenses against civilians or criminal acts will be punished severely.

Prosecutors said they needed infor-

mation that not only supported an in-dictment but could also be used in court.

'In the past we have been given leads and intelligence, and then we go back to the source and say we'd like to use this in the courtroom." Mr. Blewitt said; "Then they say oo, because they do not want to expose their intelligence-gathering methods or compromise their

Part of the debate outside the tribunal is whether NATO allies want to see Mr. Milosevic indicted at this point, since it could be difficult to oegotiate with him once he was formally charged as a war

crimes suspect. Tribunal officials said they had oot been subjected to pressure by governments to indict senior Yugoslav officials or to withhold indictments. Pressure has

come from public opinion and from questions asked by the press, they said. "There seems to be an expectation that something is going to happen right now." Mr. Blewitt said.

That expectation may also exist in Yugoslavia. For three weeks the Yugoslav Embassy in The Hague has had oo dealings with the tribunal, refusing to accept letters, documents and even telephone calls, an official said.

■ Serb Militia Leader Indicted

Tribunal prosecotors have indicted the Serb paramilitary leader known as Arkan with at least three categories of war crimes, including crimes against bu-From a legal point of view, tribunal manity, according to court documents investigators say, it is easier to hold Mr. released Wednesday, Reuters reported. Mrs. Arbour said March 31 that Zeliko Raznatovic, also known as-Arkan, was named oo a sealed indictment that dated from September 1997. She gave no details of the charges at the Mr. Milosevic has shown himself time, but said she was serving an arrest

In Kosovo, A Bus Terminal And Graveyard Hit by Bombs

By Paul Watson Los Angeles Times Service

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia - NATO bombers scored several hits Tuesday in the capital of Kosovo, incloding a grave-yard, a bus statioo and a children's basketball court,

The strikes were not mentioned when General Wesley Clark, commander of the NATO forces, briefed reporters in Brus-

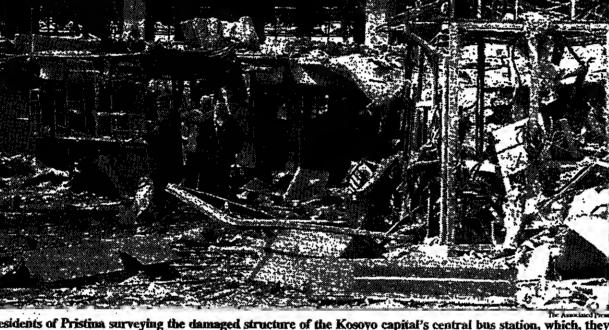
sels on the air campaign's successes.

But the general stressed that almost all of the NATO pilots' weapons are precision-guided, so-called smart bombs, and that "almost without exception, the targets are very precisely struck."
. He repeated that NATO was not at

war with the people of Yugoslavia, so Brankica Budimir might be forgiven for not understanding why her small Pristing apartment was in ruins.

every window and sliding door in the them so that their children grow up in fear four-story apartment block where the and panic. I don't like to believe this, but 46-year-old Serb, a researcher at the they have gone overboard." Center for the Environment in Pristina, children, 10, 18 and 22.

No one was reported killed by the explosion, but that was small consolresidents left to pick through the remains of their homes and cars.



Residents of Pristina surveying the damaged structure of the Kosovo capital's central bus station, which, they said, had been struck during heavy NATO bombardment. "There is no excuse for this," the station director said.

ment that would oot be out of place in many American cities. Her youngest child's bedroom was decorated with caused a heavy explosion but left only a A bomb or missile struck the edge of a child's bedroom was decorated with

The explosion shattered practically kitchen. "Maybe this should happen to

The apartment building is exclusively lives a middle-class life with her three Serbian, and Ms. Budimir wondered story bus station, the main public trans- loved ones scattered on the ground. aloud whether NATO attacked it in what she called "a terrorist act."

Civilian casualties from the NATO dozens, include Serbs, ethnic Albanians, pf their homes and cars.

— Ms. Budimir, still trembling and in shock, swept up broken glass and pieces ethnic Turks and Gypsies, so no ooe "I don't think they even know why, feels safe anymore. Since NATO did oot he said. "Maybe it is psychological."

— Mr. Manojlovic's terminal was one of the said. "Maybe it is psychological."

playground in the center of Ms. Budi-mir's large apartment complex during a heavy bombardment around 1:40 A.M. Overcome with tears, Ms. Budimir about 4.5 meters across, and only cen-

of the city bus terminal Tuesday, the director of the facility, Dragan Man-ojlovic, could oot see the logic behind NATO's strategy. Bombs destroyed most of the two-

port hob linking Kosovo to the rest of

military here."

e said. "Maybe it is psychological."

Mr. Manojlovic's terminal was one of self, dressed all in black: "My soo. My of twisted metal Tuesday in an apart-day, there was no ready explanation for the country's best bus stations and had a beart, my soul, my Zoran."

computerized ticketing service, he said. The bus terminal was about 450 meters away, and oo the other side of the small crater compared with many bombs highway, from an army barracks, which that have hit Pristina. The crater was NATO destroyed with bombs over sev-

heavy bombardment around 1:40 A.M.

Nearby was a black steel pole holding up a basketball backboard and a hoop and for what she was about to say.

"If this is NATO democracy, and the playground's fight for bumanism and human lives, this second-floor apartment in the market of Pristina.

Datdanija district of Pristina.

Overcome with tears, Ms. Budimir about 4.5 meters across, and only centimeters deep.

The cape of Pristina and human lives, this should be held against their own honor."

The explosion shattered practically with tears, Ms. Budimir about 4.5 meters across, and only centimeters deep.

NATO destroyed with bombo over several days and nights.

NATO also hit a fuel depot on the southern edge of Pristina early Tuesday.

"If this is NATO democracy, and the playground's damp grass to suggest that NATO was aloust to say.

"The same bombing ruo destroyed and a hoop and for what she was about to say.

"The same bombing ruo destroyed with bombo over several days and nights.

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"The same bombing ruo destroyed with bombo over several days and nights.

NATO also hit a fuel days and nights.

"The same bombing ruo destroyed with beautiful anywhere ocar what we're expecting."

The same bombing ruo destroyed with southern error days and nights.

NATO also hit a fuel days and nights.

NATO also hit a fuel days and nights.

Standing the information ar

It was the second time the graveyard has been bombed.

end of the cemetery April 7, enraging Orthodox Serbs who saw remains of their Nada Turcinovic had arrived at the

"There is oo excuse for this," Mr. cemetery Tuesday morning to bury her soo. Zoran Dragutinovic. Bot she bad to ation to the hundreds of traumatized strikes in Pristina, which number in the Manojlovic said, "there was nothing sit and wait, weeping on a curb, until the roar of NATO jets finally passed around 10.35 A.M.

5,000 Refugees Cross Border to Macedonia

BLACE, Macedonia - At least 5,000 Kosovo Albanians arrived at the Macedonian border post of Blace oo Wednesday, a spokeswoman for the United Nations Higb Com-

missioner for Refugees said Wednesday.
Two consecutive waves of 2,000 refugees crossed at Blace,
the spokeswoman, Paula Chedini, said. A thousand others were massed around the western Macedonian town of Lojane, she

The refugees came by train, bus and car and appeared to be in good shape, the spokeswoman said. "They came with their families," she said, and most had identity documents and A few drove across the border at Blace in their cars. Others

skirted minefields and walked along the railway until they were stopped by border guards and directed through the fields to the Blace checkpoint. They were then put on buses and taken to refugee camps. Many appeared to have traveled on a regular morning train from the southern Kosovo town of Urosevac. The refugees told an international monitor that their train was packed and

that several hundred more people had gathered at the station to await the next one. It was the first time since Belgrade sealed its borders a week earlier that such a steady stream of people had moved across

the Blace border crossing.

Fears for hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians thought to be stranded in the hills of Kosovo grew Wednesday as both the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the UN refugee agency admitted they did not know where they were. Sadako Ogata, head of the UN agency, said after talks with the NATO secretary-general, Javier Solana Madariaga, that

her office was "gaining control" of the refugee situation in the countries bordering Kosovo. "We have turned the situation around, but I am very worned about those in Kosovo," she said. "We do not know exactly how many they are."

Mr. Solana said the alliance was looking at the possibility of organizing air drops of food and other supplies to the displaced people. But he cautioned: "It is a very, very difficult situation. We do not know where the majority of the people are." Separately, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Or-

ganization warned that Kosovo faced a long-term food sbortage because most crops had been destroyed or abandoned unharvested in the fields and new crops had not been "Apart from the direct human consequences, the Kosovo crisis has devastated the agricultural and food-processing

industries, resulting in a severe reduction in food output, supplies and food availability," it said. The Rome-based agency said that even if refugees were allowed to return to their homes, massive international relief

REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE

Announcement of Privatisation By International Public Tender of State Owned Financial Sector Institutions

The Unidade de Coordenação do Projecto de Privatizações e Regulação Institucional (Privatisation Unit) of the Republic of Cape Verde, in accordance with the Law on Privatisation of the Republic of Cape Verde, Decree Law 70/98 and Resolution 74/98 of 31st December, 1998 announces the sale, by international public tender, of state owned shares in three (3) financial sector institutions with interlocking shareholdings, according to the following criteria and terms: (i) as a financial group, or (ii) as three separate individual institutions, and/or (iii) any combination thereof.

Name	Type of Institution	No of State Owned Shares	No of Shares for this bid	% of Institution for this bid
BCA	Commercial Bank	775.000	525.000	52.50
GARANTIA	Insurance Company	96.620	91.789	45.895*
PROMOTORA	Venture Capital Company	255.000	180.000	40.000*

*The Government will contractually ensure that management control will be held by the successful bidder

The bid package containing the Confidential Information Memoranda and other pertinent bid documents may be acquired at a cost of Euro 20.000 Euros from the Privatisation Unit (UPR) at Largo do Cruzeiro - Ténis, Praia, Cabo Verde, telephone (238) 61 23 19, Fax (238) 61 23 34, email: cvprivatization@mail.cvtelecom.cv.

Any request of information, questions or clarification regarding the bidding process may be addressed to the Bid Committee at the Privatisation Unit, at the above indicated address.

The bid proposals must be submitted by 16h00, local time on Friday, July 9, 1999, at the office of the Privatisation Unit, Largo do Cruzeiro - Ténis, Praia, Cabo Verde, in wax sealed envelopes according to the instructions contained in the Resolution nº74/98 of December 31, 1998, published in the offical gazette n°48, Serie I.

The bid proposals opening session will take place at 10h00, local time on Monday, 12th July, 1999 in the Ministry of Finance, Praia, Cabo Verde.



Kosovar refugees waiting beside a line of 20 buses assistance would be needed to feed the population until near the border crossing at Blace, Macedonia. agricultural production was restored. (AFP, Reuters, AP)

Election in Algeria

Debate on Kosovo

Algeria's presidential election on

Thursday offers an opportunity to end

a seven-year civil war between the

army and Islamic guerrillas that has cost more than 75,000 lives. But for

that to happen, the ruling generals must

permit an honest vote count and allow

n As the campaign has proceeded, the

army has made clear its preference for

former Foreign Minister Abdelaziz

Bouteflika, making him a strong fa-

worite. Surprisingly, however, several

opposition candidates have been al-

lowed to wage competitive campaigns.

Taleb Ibrahimi, who is endorsed by

many of the Islamic groups that began

the insurgency, and former Prime Min-

ister Mouloud Hamrouche, who ad-

evocates democratic and market re-

forms. Unless the front-runner gets

more than 50 percent of the vote Thurs-

day, he must face the next-highest fin-

d As the air war over Yugoslavia heads toward its foorth week, pressure is building on President Bill Clinton to

send ground forces into battle. Critics of

the NATO campaign are right to open a

debate about military and diplomatic

options, and the planning for all con-tingencies should begin. But there should be no illusions about the dif-

ficulties and potential costs of a land

war. A great deal more bombing and

diplomacy should be employed before

the United States makes any fateful de-

cisions about the use of ground troops.

is Though the air war has progressed

slowly, and has done little to impede the

Serbian march across Kosovo, it is in-

flicting heavy damage oo Serbia's mil-

itary and industrial base. Given time.

the attacks can wear down Slobodan Milosevic's resistance and make his

people impatient to end the bombing. It

is certainly premature to conclude that

air strikes are not enough and only an

'invasion can secure NATO's political

and military goals. Mr. Milosevic well

knows that the steady destruction of oil

refineries, weapons factories, ammuni-

tion supplies and communication oet-

works will eventually cripple his mil-

itary forces, and possibly undermine

As painful as the air war may some-

times be in Scrbia - on Mooday a

NATO missile severed a rail bridge,

killing at least nine people as a passing

NATO must sustain the attacks. Unlike

the Serbian assault on Kosovo, the

alliance is not deliberately targeting civilians, NATO's 19 members have

ragreed to continue the aerial bombard-

ment, a sign of unity and determination

that Mr. Milosevic should consider

Diplomacy also needs time to work.

India already had missiles to carry nuclear warheads to Pakistan, its re-

gional rival. With its test Sunday of a

ballistic missile with a range of 2,400

kilometers, it now may also have a way

to hit major prospective targets in China.

its strategic rival. As a bow to India's

image of itself as a power fit to play the

global game, the Agni II makes its own

considerable nationalist and geopolitical contribution. The cost to regional

It was India's ouclear tests last May

that triggered a reluctant Pakistan's

own tests. These blasts put a burdeo oo

both South Asian states to head off any

further nuclear racing. The United States responded with a mediating

shuttle fixed on advancing nuclear

arms control and on drawing India and

Pakistan into negotiation oo their polit-

Early Jitters About Y2K

Imaginative observers claim to have

identified up to 31 so-called "trigger dates" in 1999 that could spark com-

are farfetched. Some have already

1, 1999, was listed by some as a trigger

For reasons that remain unclear, Jan

passed without problems.

stability, however, comes high.

train was knocked into a river .

his political power.

The leading challengers are Ahmed

the winner to govern freely.

isher in a renoff election this month.

Algeria's last seriously contested

campaign ended abruptly in January

1992 when the army blocked a runoff

parliamentary vote that an Islamic fun-

damentalist party seemed certain to win Radical Islamic guerrilias then

unleashed a campaign of terror that targeted secular civilians, intellectuals

and foreigners as well as soldiers.

Army leaders responded with violent repression and blocked all attempts at a

Violent incidents peaked early last year. Yet more than 200 people are still

being killed every month. As some generals and Islamic leaders now seem

willing to recognize, force alone can-not bring Algeria lasting peace. Having sanctioned democratic competition,

both sides are now obliged to honor the

results. The elections should proceed

Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, is getting involved, a step the Clinton administration properly welcomed Monday. Secretary of State Madeleine

Albright met Tuesday in Oslo with For-

eign Minister Igor Ivanov of Russia. Russia remains the best hope for

mediating the conflict. Though the war

has provoked anti-Western sentiment

in Russia, Moscow has grown impa-

tient with Mr. Milosevic's truculence

in recent years and recognizes that Rus-

sian and Serbian interests do oot always

coincide. The challenge for Washing-too is to give the Kremlin some dip-

lomatic maneuvering room without un-

dercutting NATO's aims in Kosovo.

One approach, already tacitly endorsed

by NATO, would be to include a sig-

nificant contingent of Russian troops in

any international peacekeeping force

sent to Kosovo as part of a settlement,

probably looger, to assemble a ground force of 70,000 troops in the region,

along with the tanks, artillery, am-

municoo and other supplies needed to

support an invasioo of Kosovo. A

much larger force would be needed to

invade Serbia itself. Even then, an in-

vading force might encounter fierce

should be the option of last resort,

planning for an invasion may give Mr.

Milosevic reasoo to plot a diplomatic

course. To strengthen the hands of

diplomats, and to give NATO a full

range of optioos, Mr. Clinton and his

European allies should begin to draw

up the plans for a ground assault.

Meanwhile, the bombing should pro-

ceed and America can engage in a

vigorous debate about whether vital

ical differences, especially over dis-

American law imposes on testers.

But oow India has flamboyantly

showo just the reverse of nuclear re-

straint. Worse, it is moving explicitly

to make "symmetry" with China, rather than with the lesser Pakistan, its

Arms control was not the only thing

the U.S. Congress had on its mind

when it started lifting sanctions. Grain

sales, for instance, was another. But

Congress, having started down that

path on the premise that the parties would practice nuclear discretion, can-

not fail to ask whether its policy is

Feb. 5, 1999, when travel agents could

begin selling air tickets for Jan. 1.

2000. That day passed and U.S. travel

reservation systems did oot even hic-

April 1, 1999, was the day on which fiscal year 2000 began in New York state and some foreign nations. Again,

there was oothing to report. Most other states and many U.S. corporations face

a similar test June 1, when their new

fiscal years begin. Until then, prepared-

--- Los Angeles Times.

ness, not panic, is the watchword.

cup, much less crash.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

serving nuclear adventure instead.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

troops into Yugoslavia.

strategic objective.

Nuclear Adventure

Other Comment

Though the use of ground troops

resistance from Serbian forces.

It would take at least six weeks,

without tampering or interruption.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

negotiated settlement.

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DARIS - Kosovo is not an affair for which international law has an answer. The search for its solution cannot be confined within the political categories of ethnic rivalry, sovereignty versus insurrection, or redrawn frontiers.

It has a moral dimension that sets it apart. The Serbian campaign to uproot, displace and deport a large part of Rosovo's Albanian population is of a savagery unknown in Western Europe, outside the former Yugoslavia, since the second World War.

Mr. Milosevic and his government are attempting to solve their Kosovo problem by producing a basic demographic change in the province through deporting its Albanian population, the overwhelming majority.

According to German government sources, this program for purging Kosovo of its Albanian population was prepared at the end of last year under the code name "Horseshoe." Its initial purpose was to defeat or neutralize the Kosovo Liberation Army, in rebellion against Serbia. In terms of Serbia's internationally recognized, if abusive, sovereignty over Kosovo, this was a

The government's experience in op-

By William Pfaff

erations against the Kosovo Liberation Army during the fall of 1998, which displaced 300,000 people, proved unsatisfactory, since the displaced Kosovars eventually returned home and the KLA's resistance to the Serbs resumed. Horseshoe was designed to produce

permanent solution, and was lannched even before the Rambouillet discussions in February, which the Scrbian leadership did not take seriously.

Washington has until recently treated Slobodan Milosevic as a Balkan rogue, indispensable in solving the problems his own policies have created. Moreover, he has repeatedly been elected to lead the country. While these elections were not models of good practice, their outcomes make it hard to deny his electoral legitimacy. This is a deeply dismaying part of the situation.

However, we all were greatly underestimating him. The Serbian president's decision to displace a major part of the Albanian population from their homes, expelling them in an unimaginably brutal way, employing terror, and presumably, as happened earlier in Bosnia, mass executions, demonstrates and Stalin. He acts on a grand scale.

The human consequences of his acts do not interest him. He is on the way to destroying not only Kosovo but Serbia for the sake of his own power.

His actions have contaminated the immense European accomplishment of the past 50 years, the reconciliation of European peoples and the institutionalization of reconciliation in the European Union (and in NATO). The unforgivable things being done in Kosovo have no place in this modern Europe.

NATO has actually intervened in Serbia out of long-developing but ultimately decisive moral outrage. What it has done lacks UN sanction or logical consistency with the past. It is on a new course, but not an unprecedented one. The principle of absolute sovereignty has been challenged in a number of recent developments, including creation of an international war crimes court and the assertion of a right to humanitarian intervention.

NATO's current action will have been wasted as a precedent if what comes out of it is merely a cynical lesson about unilateral action ultimately subordinated to domestic pol-

Adding a Moral Dimension to Military Intervention that he possesses a moral imagination itics. Worse would be if the human-which merits his comparison with Hitler itarian principle were betrayed by a NATO compromise with Mr. Milesevic, leaving him the implicit victor. We need to formulate grounds for

4 1 . 3

dispassionate international interventions in cases where international morality and good order are outraged. It is difficult and potentially dangerous to do so. Yet the international community seems to be moving entaically and hesitantly toward such a code. A precedent of a kind, unsatisfactory but significant, lay in the intervention of the Organization of African Unity into the frightful and mindless carnage occurring inside Liberia.

To be validated as a lesson for the future, this NATO intervention in Serbia must succeed. It must not halt until the refugees have been returned, with Kosovo secured under some provisional arrangement that awaits a generally agreed Balkan settlement with a changed govemment in Belgrade, and with Mr. Milosevic and his responsible colleagues charged as war criminals. That is a tall order, but it is what NATO's leaders have already said they mean to do. That

means that anything less is failure.
International Herald Tribme.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Indonesia Gains Momentum for Its First Open Election

TAKARTA --- The communal horrors of East Timor, Ambon and West Kalimantan are real enough. But they no more describe indonesia than Kashmir, Bihar and Assam describe India.

More remarkable is how stable the heartland, Java, now seems after 18 months of political and economic crisis and the battle of 48 parties for votes in the country's first open par-liamentary election June 7. It could be the calm before another storm, Some electioneering violence is inevitable, if only because of the size of crowds that can be generated on a densely populated island, But despite the excitement of elections, and despite regional, religious and income divides,

there is an air of oormalcy. The main players have moved toward the center to broaden their appeal and prepare the way for future alliances. The poll will be inconclusive, so coalitions are inevitable. One such player has been Amien Rais, head of the Muhammadiyah Islamic organization and of the PAN, or National Mandate By Philip Bowring

Party. Previously feared by secularists and Chinese, he has shifted from a strongly Muslim and redistributionist agenda to one broadly attractive to the urban middle class — and even backed by Chinese money.

Megawati Sukamoputri, the daughter of Indonesia's founding leader, President Sukarno, is saying little about policy, but her Indonesian Democratic Party is widely tipped to emerge as the largest party and has been developing links to military figures and professional, secularist rebels from the governing Golkar party.

The strongest force at work at the grass roots is not ideology but simply a desire to participate. For every member of the old elite who fears elections and wants to see them disrupted, there are at least two who want the vote to show that the nation is capable of political development

Suspicions that the elections might be rigged or popular will might be thwarted by the mil-

idence of high-placed stirring in Ambon. In remoter areas, Golkar may use the government machinery in its favor, although in any case it will fare better in areas outside Java, which have been less affected by the eco-nomic crisis. There is concern that even if Golkar genuinely does well, the masses of Java who demand real change will

take to the streets. In theory, a big Golkar showing could thwart change. Add in the 38 military seats in the 500member Parliament and most of the 200 indirectly elected and appointed seats in the 700member People's Consultative Assembly --- which selects the president - and Golkar could remain in control.

In practice, however, that seems unlikely. Golkar itself is factionalized, with different groups - Islamists, liberal secularists, upholders of the status quo - having different ideas on whether to support the elec-

tion of President B. J. Habibie, Moreover, the electoral com-

has established an independent the destruction of many of the

rupt the democratic process. A bigger danger may be that horse trading and money politics at the consultative assembly will deliver a president whose support is broad-based but derived from compromises that make weak government inevitable. Such a government may fail to

live up to demands for reform. The most ardent reformers are themselves divided into the secular and Islamist camps represented respectively by the Indonesian Democratic Party and PAN. Islamist parties, and even the Indonesian Democratic Party, are themselves multihued and interleaved with strands of nationalist, statist and free-market thinking.

Battles for economic interest. will be intense, but divides are not all along party lines. There is a unique opportunity for the government, which is having to bail out the banking system, to acquire bankrupt assets on behalf of the mostly indigenous Suharto cra.

reputation.

There are dangers that some groups will use violence to dis-

None of the main party leaders is offering detailed eco-comic proposals. Few may appreciate the extent of the problems to be faced. The economy may be bottoming out, but the debt burden will bobble all governments for years to come not a bright prospect for In-

dooesian democracy. The run-up to the election reveals a society developing its political system under intense ecocomic pressure. Despite the recession, most politicians have an international ootlook, and have a stake in ensuring that the ecocomic and social gains under Mr. Subarto are not erased by political turmoil.

Indonesia is trying to progress to the point where unity is fostered by participation, not authoritarianism. Weak consensus government would be a problem, but a lesser problem than the violent divides so often forecast for the post-

election, has a broad base and people. But that would mean winterantional Herald Tribune.

miracle nonetheless. Japan's

egalitarian policies have cre-

is attempting to capture the

ambivalence. The slogan of this

recently created amalgam of smaller parties and LDP de-

maximize the opportunities that

might flow from loosening

things up while minimizing the

risks of change.

The party trying to supplant the LDP, the Democratic Party,

ated a good life for most.

Japanese Politics Is Falling Victim to Voter Alienation

mission, which oversees the

-carefully as he tries to sow divisioo U.S. interests will be served by sending TOKYO - A revolt against L old parties, spurred by a sluggish ecocomy and voter alienation from the system, is creating an upheaval in Japanese

To talk about a Japanese poted Kashmir. On the promise of this shuttle, the United States started peelvoter revolt is strange, since the cautious, consensus-building ing back the economic sanctions Liberal Democratic Party has governed Japan with only a brief interruption since 1955. The party that presided over Japan's emergence as a world

economic power defines the political establishment. It forged iron bonds among the economy was good.

By E. J. Dionne Jr.

big business and a powerful govemment bureaucracy.Japanese politics flowed from "a stream of personal relations," said Yasuhisa Shiozaki, a Liberal Democratic member of Japan's upper house of Parliament. The Liberal Democratic Party 'is a kind of small village in the countryside." Everybody knows everybody's business and remembers, sometimes fondly, all the old brawls. Corruption scandals could be survived as long as

But the village is now threat-ened. The end of the Cold War and the decline of the old Japanese left mean majorities no longer repair automatically to the Liberal Democratic Party, or LDP, as a safe haven of controlled capitalist stability. Japan's long recession breeds questions about the cozy system of interlocking clites and bureaucratic authority.

Heretical thoughts are the new orthodoxy. "The myth that the Japanese civil service is the

finest in the world is collap-sing," said Takashi Kosugi, a former education minister and LDP parliamentarian. What is under challenge, said Yoshito Sengoku, an official of the opposition Democratic Party, is "the closed nature of Japanese

Protest voting — for Japan's fectors — "building a free and communist Party and, on occasion, for celebrities -- is on the rise. Urban voters are especially alienated from the old system. Both trends came together on Sunday, when Shintaro Ishihara, an outspoken nationalist running as an independent, won election as the new governor of Tokyo. The LDP candidate ran fourth.

Membership in other traditional institutions, including both business groups and labor unions, is on the decline. Takeshi Yoshii, executive vice president of Nippon Steel and leader of Japan's big business group, the Keidanren, noted that the only two parties with firm bases of support are the Communists and the religiously based Clean Government Party, the Komeito.

Yet the LDP hangs on, adapting itself to whatever the political market seems to de-

And Japanese voters are un-derstandably ambivalent about change. The economic miracle is now in trouble, but it was a

Its leaders square another circle by praising two rather different British politicians, Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair. Eisei Ito, the Democratic Party's vice president, explained that the party seeks "a viable combination" of their policies by creating a freer market with a

stronger social "safety net." The Democrats' hope is that the LDP will eventually split and help them create a modified two-party system. But Banri Kaieda, a Democratic Party member of Parliament, conceded that since "power is the glue holding the LDP together," it will not break up until it loses power — the very calamity it is so skilled at avoiding.

So Japan is pregnant with the possibility of big change, yet no one knows how it will happen or how much of it the country really wants.

The Washington Post.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Auto Decree PARIS -- [The Herald says in

an Editorial: The decree giving the conditions under which antomobiles will be allowed to run on the streets is calculated to cause consternation. The edict states that a walking pace must be kept. A circular gives the spirit in which the regulations are to be interpreted by officials, who "should reconcile public security with the rights of an industry, which is interesting because it is in its earlier stages." Without this attenuation the law would have a prejudicial effect, as no one would dream of keeping an automobile for the purpose of "crawling."

1924: Atheist West

LONDON - After giving London the "once-over," Khidyr Abell, former Premier in Turkestan, declared that he knows why the Western world does not

have time for religion. Alieff said that the people of his country feel the need of religion because of the vast distances, but that in London, with the bright lights of theatres and restaurants, railways and buses, he can see there is no time for it.

1949: Soviet Buildings MOSCOW - A plan to lift the

face of Moscow with new buildings rising up to thirty-two stories was described as a monumental undertaking which will demonstrate the superiority of the swelling Soviet system over the declining structure of the capitalist West Mr. Simonov [chairman of the State Architecture Committee] said. new Soviet architecture was founded on the Stalinist principle of solicitude for man. He compared this to "the architecture of foreign skyscrapers which represses man and does not take account his interests."

Will Microsoft Share Its Secrets?

WASHINGTON — With Microsoft and the U.S. Instice Department closeted off somewhere trying to settle their antitrust suit, the word from Microsoft headquarters is that the company is exploring whether to release to the world the source code for the next generation of its oper-

ating system, Windows 2000.
"There have been discussions of what 'open source' might mean for Windows," one Microsoft executive confirmed. He stressed that the software giant was far from making any decision to give away its trademark product. And he noted that any move to open up licensing would be done for business reasons, to assist software developers who want to innovate with Windows.

Still, it is obvious that a Microsoft decision to share the Windows source code - the original instructions written by the programmers who created it - with other software developers would go a long way toward resolving the issues at

the heart of the antitrust suit. Whatever comes of Microsoft's discussions, the fact that the Scrooge McDuck of software is debating whether to share its secrets is a stupner.

Historians will note that if Microsoft ever does release the source code for Windows - whether on its own or compelled by the Justice Department - it will be due in part to the dogged efforts of a cybergurn named Eric Raymond.

Mr. Raymond is the leader of what is known as the "Open Source" movement, an underBy David Ignatius

ground network of software developers who are dedicated to producing free, commun-ally maintained operating systems like Unix and Linux. Mr. Raymond is best

known for a 1997 treatise called "The Cathedral and the Bazaar," which is his movement's equivalent of the Communist Manifesto. It likened the Microsoft approach to software -- with thousands of developers writing and debug-ging ever more elaborate programs - to the process of building a medieval cathedral. A far more efficient approach, Mr. Raymond argued, would be to open up construction to the hundreds of thousands of rogrammers who make up the Internet bazaar.

Support for his theories came in January 1998, when Netscape announced that it would release the source code for its Navigator browser. A top Netscape executive emailed Mr. Raymond soon after to say: "Your thinking and writings were fundamental

inspirations to our decision." Mr. Raymond argues that it is silly to try to control ownership of most software, because it is so easy to copy and because it prevents the kind of easy interaction among developers that will make the

software better, quicker. His model for how the world should work is the Unix operating system, which will run on virtually any kind of machine and has been debugged so thoroughly over

more than two decades that it is amazingly robust. Unix and a follow-on known as Linux have evolved organically, like a giant bechive, with different users making modifications to

suit their needs. Microsoft executives insist that despite their reputation as a closed shop, they have long made their code available to some big universities, research labs and partner companies.

The question now, Microsoft executives suggest, is whether the industry evolving so rapidly that it makes sense to provide code for their next big release, Windows 2000, to software developers so they can quickly adapt it to their needs. In such a world, Microsoft presumably would make its money chiefly by selling specific proprietary applications and services.

Microsoft executives have been studying carefully what happened to Netscape after it made that move a year ago by releasing its browser code. They find the results discour-

One Microsoft executive cites a public resignation letter posted two weeks ago by Jamie Zawinski, the Netscape manager who had supervised the open-source collaborative project. "The fact is, there has been very little contribution from people who don't work for Netscape," Mr. Zawinski wrote. He said the project "has become too depressing, and too painful, for me to continue."

The same fate could befall Microsoft if it tried to share its crown jewels with the world. The Washington Post.

OPINION/LETTERS

In Clinton Contempt Case, Judge Is Legally Wrong

By Nathan Lewin

WASHINGTON — In her integrity of the judicial system."

Punishment, however, is the function of a criminal court, not of Clinton for civil contempt because he gave "false, misleading and evasive answers" during the de-position taken by Panla Jones's lawyers, Judge Susan Webber Wright of Pederal District Court was right on the facts, but wrong on the law. If Mr. Clinton chooses to appeal her ruling, he should win.

why? Civil contempt does not apply in this case. Since the Jones lawsuit, which charged Mr. Clinton with sexual misconduct, has been settled, the president may be sanctioned only under the rules that govern criminal proceed-

And if he were charged with criminal contempt, Mr. Clinton would presumptively be entitled as was Susan McDougal in her trial on obstruction of justice and criminal contempt — to a jury trial and other protections, including the requirement that his guilt Chren Electiv be proved beyond a reasonable donbt. These protections may not be evaded by classifying an after-the-fact punitive contempt find-ing as "civil."

Federal law gives judges cir-

curescribed powers to punish parties, witnesses or lawyers during a court case in order to make the wheels of justice run smoothly. If a witness refuses to testify, the judge may threaten and then actually imprison him or her. That is "civil" contempt - traditionally viewed as jailing in which, in the often-quoted words of a federal court almost a century ago, the prisoner "carries the keys of his prison in his own pocket." If he complies with the court's order and testifies, he is freed.

Criminal contempt, however, looks to the past, not the future. It is punishment for what the wit-ness did or failed to do. Judge Wright said Monday that she had to impose the contempt sanction because Mr. Clinton "deliberately violated this court's discovery orders and thereby under-mined the integrity of the judicial system.

Punishment was needed, she added, "not only to redress the president's misconduct, but to deter others who might themselves consider emulating the president of the United States by engaging 1988. He contributed this c in misconduct that undermines the ment to The New York Times.

Punishment, however, is the function of a criminal court, not of a civil court decree that keeps a case (or an investigation) moving along. The rule of civil procedure that Judge Wright invoked— Rule 37(b)(2)— makes it clear that her authority to impose civil contempt sanctions persists only so long as her court is one "in which the action is pending."

The Panla Jones case is, of course, no longer "pending" in her court. The president's lawyers settled the case, for \$850,000, in November. And Judge Wright's contames order is not intended to contempt order is not intended to obtain any future testimony or future discovery of documents. Hence her power to exercise civil

ontempt authority is gone. Mrs. McDougal's case is a textbook example of the difference between civil and criminal contempt. After she refused to answer the questions of Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, about Whitewater, she went to jail, but the keys to her freedom were in her pocket. Had she testified, she would have been released. Only a criminal contempt

charge could punish her for refusing to testify. Once the criminal contempt accusation was filed, she became entitled to a trial by jury and to all the safeguards guaranteed by the criminal process.

The independent counsel's office could not simply invoke "civil contempt" and thereby punish her for what she had done in the past - even if the punishment's purpose was, in Judge Wright's words, "to redress... misconduct" and "to deter others" who might consider emulating her disobedience. In the Monica Lewinsky case,

Judge Wright can no longer punish Mr. Clinton. It is generally agreed that a sitting president cannot be prose-

cuted on criminal charges. Short of a plea bargain, the only choice is to wait until 2001, when Mr. Starr may seek an indictment. An unsatisfying resolution perhaps, but the only legally sound one.

The writer was the lawyer for Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d in an independent counsel investigation conducted in 1987 and 1988. He contributed this com-



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Serbs as Europeans

At least the current conflict over Kosovo has taught us a few valuable lessons on the Serbian people.
First, everybody thought the

Serbs were a savage ignorant people whose hate of Western nations and values would equate, for instance, that of the people of Iraq during the Gulf War. Then what did we see on our

television screens? People who have a high degree of culture and who naturally resent attacks on their homes and who care for their children. In a word, oormal They are oot the problem -

their leader is. It is totally abnormal that one man could lead them to hate their friends and neighbors belonging to different ethnic groups and support such an outrageous and inhuman operation against Kosovar Albanian civilians, who are, after all, the sole legitimate owners of Kosovo, The Serbs are not fanatic Iragis.

They are Europeans with a European state of mind and hopes for their future and their children's. That is why they should take this

opportunity to embrace the values democracy and human rights which lie at the heart of all European institutions by turning their backs on the man who has betrayed and used them for personal-power purposes - Slobodan Milosevic, who belongs so much less in his

comfortable presidential palace in Belgrade than in the dock of the Hague tribunal.

Even though the present could not be more difficult for them, the Serbs ought to realize that Op-eration Allied Force is something that they, too, have a lot to gain from if they wish. BERNARD HENRY.

Garches, France,

About Mrs. Nabokov

Regarding "Behind the Mask of Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov" (Books, April 8): councement of his death.

I enjoyed reading the good re-view of Stacy Schiff's good book "Véra (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov)." I am curious, however, as to where Vladimir Nabokov's eye was "roving." In search of help because he was about to be shot by his gun-toting wife?

I have it on pretty good au-thority that, while she had done some target shooting in her youth. Véra Nabokov did not carry concealed weapons. Nor, as has been reported, was she the seeing-eye dog for a blind Vladimir. And she seems to have carried the secret of her 1934 pregnancy to her urn.

There is no question that the 65-year-old, six-foot-five youth occasionally glimpsed on Swiss streets is none other than the Russian hockey forward Dmitri Nabokov, recently traded by the Chicago Hawks to their Montreux farm team. But even he knows that

"Lolita" was first published in the United States by Putnam in 1958, not 1955. DMITRI NABOKOV.

Montreux, Switzerland.

Looser Baseball Pants

In the comment on Joe DiMaggio (The Allure of DiMaggio, March 10) he was described as follows: "As stylish off the field as on, he was an icoo of elegance and success." This was well sup-ported by the action photograph which accompanied the an-

I am British, so oo baseball specialist, but I am a keen observer of, and commentator on, style. The baseball uniforms of DiMaggio's heyday included stylish loose trousers - Chinese length - surely more elegant and comfortable than today's tight-fit-ting hose, particularly if you are as sturdy as the Mark McGwires of this world.

To honor DiMaggio, maybe baseball fashions could change?
CHERRY BARNETT. Hong Kong.

Letters intended for publica-tion should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the re-turn of unsolicited manuscripts.

The Essence of Greekness, So Far Away From Home

By Jeff Jacoby

Afighting for their independence. In Athens, they besiege the Acropolis, a stronghold of the Turkish occupiers. As the siege grinds on, the Turks' ammunition

They begin to dismantle sections of the Parthenon, prying out the 2,300-year-old lead clamps and melting them down for hullets. The Greek fighters, horrified

MEANWHILE

at this defacement of their patrimony, send the Turks a supply of hullets. Better to arm their foes, they decide, than to let the ancient temple come to harm.

It is an extraordinary and unexampled gesture of self-sacri-

But then, the Parthenon is a unique masterpiece of Western culture. Constructed in the 5th century B.C. as a shrine to Athena, goddess of war and patron of Athens, it is the acme of classical Greek architecture and sculpture, the greatest monument of the Age of Pericles. There is no more storied building in Europe. No Greek could see it vandalized and fail to

And yet by 1821 just such a slander - that the ransacking of the Parthenon would leave Greeks unfazed - was already in circulation.

Five years earlier and 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) away, a committee of the British Parliament had held hearings on the hoge collection of sculptures and bas-reliefs that Robert Bruce, the seventh Earl of Elgin, had removed from the Parthenon and shipped to England. These Elgin Marbles, so called, were being offered for sale to the British Musenm, and there were questions about how Lord Elgin — the former British ambassador to the Ottoman Empire - had acquired

One committee member asked Lord Elgin's deputy, Philip Hunt: "Was any opposition shown by any class of the natives?" 'None," Mr. Hunt replied, and

for 180 years that lie has endured. In taking what he took, the argument goes, Lord Elgin performed a great service—he saved the sculptures from indifferent Greeks and primitive Turks who

THENS - 1821. Greeks are did not appreciate them and would not have given them the care they

> But no Greek or Turk - or Roman or Crusader, for that matter — ever treated the Parthenon as brutally as Lord Elgin and his minions did.

The travel writer Edward Daniel Clarke happened to be on the Acropolis one day in September 1802, when Lord Elgin's men detached a large sculpted slab (called a metope) from the temple's outer frieze.

He wrote: "One of the workmen came to inform Don Battista" — Giovanni Battista Lusieri, the painter Lord Elgin had hired to oversee the phin-dering of the sculptures — "that they were then going to lower one of the metopes. We saw this fine piece of sculpture raised from its statioo between the triglyphs; but... a part of the adjoining masonry was loosened by the machinery; and down came the fine masses of Pentelic marble, scattering their white fragments with thundering noise among the ru-

The Turkish military governor, Mr. Clarke noted, "beheld the mischief done to the building, took his pipe from his mouth, dropped a tear, and in a supplioating tone of voice said to Mr. Lusieri, 'Telos.' (It is finished.)'
Lord Elgin's booty remains in

the British Museum; for nearly two centuries, conscientious Britons have lamented his theft. In April 1996, a TV poll asked

Britons whether the Elgin Marbles should be returned. Of 99,340 people who took part in the poll, 92-5 percent voted in favor of the proposal. Last fall, another poll found that Britons supported the return of the marbles hy greater than a 2-to-1 ratio. It is time to set right an old

wrong and return these works to their birthplace. "Understand what the Parthenon Marbles mean to ns," Melina Mercouri, the late renowned actress and Greek minister of culture, pleaded in 1986. They are our pride. They are our sacrifice. They are our noblest symbol of excellence. They are a tribute to the democratic philosophy.

They are the essence of

The Boston Globe,

BOOKS

TAKING LIVES By Michael Pye. 295 pages.

\$23. Alfred A. Knopf.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani TN the 1975 Antonioni film "The Pas-

senger," a disaffected journalist ex-changes identities with a man he finds dead in a botel room, and soon finds himself pursued by the man's wife, friends and enemies. A similar premise underlies Michael Pye's engaging new novel, "Taking Lives," a philosophical thriller about a serial killer who takes on his victims' identities. As in Pye's accomplished 1996 nov-

el, "The Drowning Room," we are introduced to a curiously amoral and opportunistic protagonist whose identity is constructed around a secret. And as in that earlier novel, we are plunged into a sinister world whose glittering surface, detailed by Pye in spare but painterly detail, belies its shadowy mechanics.

The killing spree at the heart of this novel starts randomly enough. Young Martin Arkenhour, a Dutch foreign exchange student, is bunming around Florida with an American teenager named Seth Goodman. When their rented car breaks down Seth tries to flag down help, but he is struck by a passing car and left a bloody pulp by the side of the road. Martin checks to see if Seth is still breathing and then unaccountably takes a rock and strikes him in the head to finish him off. He switches watches with Seth, appropriates his credit cards and papers and takes off. The police will mistakenly identify the dead body as that of Martin Arkenhout. Martin, meanwhile, has settled down

to college life as Seth Goodman in New York City, where he becomes a habitué of the downtown art scene. There he meets an awkward rich man named John Gaul who tells him that he has just inherited a big, pink house in the Ba-

hamas. Seth (that is, Martin) files this information away, and when Seth's parents insist on seeing him, he decides it's time to move on: He will dispose of John Gaul and appropriate his life. Gaul, he figures, is a misfit, an outsider, a man identity problems and his own reasons that the man are the man for more than the man are the man and his own reasons that the man are the man and his own reasons that the man are the without roots or family or friends: He will not be missed.

"Arkenhout thinks he can kill, prob-ably," Pye writes. "The boundaries weakened when he took a rock to Seth Goodman's head. Besides, it will he Seth Goodman's crime, and he will not be Seth Goodman anymore."

Seth/Martin coolly murders Gaul, moves into his house in the Bahamas and lives off his copious credit. In time, as he grows restless, eager to reinvent himself, he will murder others — always men he can reasonably impersonate, always men with "a lack of mooring to the ordinary, crushing rhythms of practical life."

"Martin had always been the win-ner," Pye writes, "the man who knew how to reinvent birnself perpetually, Fanst with no need for some cramping contract with any passing devil. He did what other men just dream of doing, which is to change all the incidentals and take with him, life after life, only

And then he makes a mistake. On the run from police (who are curious about an expired visa), Martin is forced to pick a new mark quickly. He selects a professor named Christopher Hart, an art historian who is about to head off to Portugal on sabbatical. This Hart, however, has his own secret past. He has stolen 15 il-luminated plates from a rare 17th-century book belonging to a London museum, and the museum has appointed one of its curaturs, John Michael Snell Costa, to track them down. The two men are soon engaged in a dangerous game of cat and mouse, a game in which none of the usual rules of fair play apply. It is Costa who narrates the remainder

of "Taking Lives," piecing together the

for wanting to run away from his life — developments that not only help Pye to advance his story line, but also help him to underscore the dialectic in this novel between roots and rootlessness, home and abroad, stasis and flux.

Certainly there are far too many coincidences between Costa's story and Arkenhout's story for the reader to contime to suspend disbelief: Not only do both men end up within miles of each other in the Portuguese coontryside, but both also turn out to be involved with the same woman. Both men also spark the interest of a local police captain who seems to have had a mysterious re-lationship with Costa's father.

What enables the reader to overlook

these jury-rigged developments — and even the novel's contrived ending — is Pye's ability to combine psychological insight with Hitchcockian suspense and vivid novelistic descriptions. Pye conjures op Nassau for the reader as a collection of houses in "the colors of coconut ice and sherbets," and a seedy Vietnamese restaurant in SoHo as "an Edward Hopper café except for the paper lanterns, and the green lights in the fish tanks in the window." The sky glimpsed from an amplane strikes Costa as "a barroque, sentimental sky that ought to have fat, pink cherubs lollipopping about," while tourists in a Portuguese village look as if they were "trying to

make their green guides fit the sights."
Such oddly palpable details anchor
the more unbelievable aspects of the
story line in a tactile foreground, and combined with Pye's storytelling verve, they make for an entertaining, if not entirely satisfying, read.

New York Times Service

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CHALLENGE TO THINKING

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BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

One of America's many ginative choice to provide to king.

players, Edward Many ginative choice to provide to king.

field of Philadelphia, died of a the possibility that his partner king.

Preparing for the end position, he led a diamond to the sition, he led a diamond to the sition, he led a diamond to the sition. after returning from the Spring National Championships in Vancouver, British Columbia.

He won one world bridge title and 11 national ones, including the Vanderbilt Teams. In 1979 he captured the Cavendish Invitational AQJ2 Teams with his regular part- 7 J4
ner, Kit Wooksey.
They were aided by

"the diagramed deal, on which Woolsey as West opened with a weak two-bid in spades. This suggested six spades, but the modern tendency is to take this

NORTH VAST. **♦2** · SOUTH

ten. Manfield as East won with the jack and returned the suit. South won with the ace in dummy, cashed four club win- AQJ42 ners and reached the ending \$14 shown at left. The declarer gave himself the best chance by leading the

diamond two. Manfield took his three diamond winners and had to break the hearts. If he had led low, South would have played low and finessed the ten successfully. But he led the queen, and Sooth fell into the trap.

action with a strong five-card honor. The right play for he finessed the ten, going South was the ten from down two. Perhaps be should Against three no-trump, he dummy, but that was not ob- have reasoned that Manfield ONE of America's finest. led the spade four, an ima-vious, and he played low, would have led low with players, Edward Man-ginative choice to provide for winning in his hand with the queen-jack-six. **◆ 1083**

> VAS7 PVKAR WEST (D) EAST V09652 **♦** KJ653 ♦874 ♣QJ30 The blotting: West North After winning with the ace . West led the spade four.

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SURF WHILE YOU able at about 300 fitness cen-

The Can Do Cluh Wayne, New Jersey, is ofchairman and chief executive exercise experience to be as

THAILAND: How hard phone? If you are a consumer

after paying a modest connection fee

a phone replacement errand and costly expedition. In ad-Hong Kong, Singapore or Malaysia, few shops will even sell handsets without issuing a

Those few outlets selling manufacturing the consoles In most countries, con- handsets separately tend to in 1995, and they are avail- sumers simply pop their old offer a meager selection of

TECHNOLOGY INDEX Technology stock indexes around the world: Pct. change previous week Pct. change, year to date Tuesday close - XX 509.03 +13.32 1,335.11 +14.29 659.71 +8.06 1,952.80 +26.60

· Melissa: Catchy, but Graffiti Art, April 10-11

Aviation Computer Passes Y2k Test, April 14

- China Internet Firms Link Up, April 10-11

. Compaq Cuts Prices in Japan, April 13

For technology articles from the past week, see TribTech on the IHTOs World Wide Web site at http://www.iht.com. Articles include:

Olivetti Profit Rises as Bid Wins Support, April a

Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg News

- Telecom Italia Set to Fleinforce Its Defenses, April 9
- Big Future Seen for Bargain 'Virtual Ads', April 9

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CribTech

'Web Phone' Makers Duck Microsoft's Embrace

greatest competitive threats

By Bruno Giussani New York Times Service

ONDON — With the lid closed, the Ericsson R380, due to be released early next year, has the look and size of a standard mobile phone. But the keypad can be ate a common software platform for wireless flipped to reveal a large display giving access to e-mail, organizer and World Wide Web

So-called "Weh phones" like this one Corp.'s have been around for a couple of years — singled remember the Nokia Communicator that was a 10-month-old com-Val Kilmer's lifeline in "The Saint"? - but pany with just 260 have never had broad appeal. Older models employees, as one of were too expensive, complicated and bulky.
But the new models from companies like itive threats to his corNokia Corp. of Finland and LM Ericsson AB porate empire.

of Sweden are smaller and faster. Just as a desktop computer needs an op-erating system like Windows to function, a Web phone needs its own specialized op-erating system. Symbian Ltd., a Londonbased software company, aims to dominate this market, and it has several giants of the

phone and electronics industries on its side.
"In 2005, one-sixth of the world's population will bave a mobile phone, and many of these will be data-enabled," said Colly Myers, Symbian's chief executive. "This will define a whole new networked economy, where the wireless information device is the consumer's 'physical portal' to a world of

information and services. The industry believes that these phones will be the first of a range of new mobile devices that in a few years time, with the help of new technologies, will make many innovative wireless services possible — including what

might be called "mobile commerce." Ranging from handheld computers to

By Amy Harmon and Leslie Kaufman

New York Times Service

hood object that set off memories of

Series and his parents bought their

first color television. But it wasn't until he found himself bidding

against an anonymous foe in an Internet auction one evening that he

Mr. Rue, a real estate agent in New

York, has no regrets about paying \$101 for a used toy that opened at \$9.

And he is hardly alone in his embrace

of the on-line auction. It is a phe-

nomenon that in a matter of months

has captivated bargain hunters and spawned a market for nostalgia. Mil-

lions of Web surfers are sweating

silently at their computers, bidding electronically on things they have never seen, tendered by people they

While retailers continue to spend

fariously to draw more customers

on line, the internet is teeming with

knew he must have it.

have never met.

question that Bill Rue

wanted the toy car, a child-

1969, when the Mets won the World in recent weeks. "It's become my

quotes, news headlines, weather reports, Windows CE operating system. sports scores, bank accounts, music, pictures,

mail - and of course the phone network. information devices. In a memo to employees suited for the mobile device environment, but

antumn, Bill s, Microsoft chairman, singled ont Symbian, the greatest compet-

what worries Mr. Gates is Symbian's Gates and other competitors have not been powerful parents: the phone manufacturers sitting by watching. "There are at least three Nokia, Ericsson and Motorola Inc. and the British handheld-computer maker Psion uers and capture a piece of the business," said

THE THREE phone makers together control more than two-thirds of today's global cell phone market. Other manarers like Philips Electronics NV of the Netherlands, and network operators like Ja-pan's NTT Mobile Communications Network Inc., or DoCoMo, have already signed up to use Symbian's software. Following a recently announced alliance with Sun Microsystems Inc., Symbian's product will also support the

Java programming language.
"Our goal is to become the standard for wireless information devices," Mr. Myers

If he succeeds, a large portion of these devices will run on Symbian software — which is based on the Epoc operating system

Mouse in Hand, Millions Name Their Price

awkwardness and time-consuming

nature of haggling face to face.
"You get the fun of outhidding

someone; you get something glo-rious in the mail," said Robert Pela,

37, a writer in Phoenix, Arizona,

who bas acquired several Partridge

Family albums via on-line auction

If buyers become booked on cy-berspace bargaining, the implica-

tions for the retail economy could be as wide reaching as the introduction of fixed pricing enabled by stand-ardized production a century ago.

a relatively small \$1.4 billion last

year, some analysts see a future where everything is a negotiation,

from heating oil to the chopped meat at the Internet grocery store.
"There is a building mind-set of,

'Hey, I can hid for things,' ' said

Kate Delhagen, a senior analyst at

Forrester Research. "All this has the

net effect that people start thinking

In a report released last week, For-

rester predicted that business-to-con-

particularly computer equipment,

and resell it to the highest hidder.

But for now, most Web trans-

ner mteracti

bnyers and sellers making their own 66 percent of a \$19 billion on-line

markets. Items range from a 50- auction market hy 2003. Already,

gailoo fish tank (four goldfish in- several sites such as Onsale.com and

cluded) to painted plaster hula girls firstauction.com have created a hy-

that they can name their price."

While on-line auction sales were

favorite form of procrastination."

"smart phones" of all shapes and sizes, the new devices will provide access to stock of tiny computers — and not on Microsoft's

with Microsoft, but then they took an offer Symbian was founded last summer to cre-made by David Potter, the chairman of Psico -arguably because Psion's software is better

also to avoid letting Microsoft get a Bill Gates has singled out stranglehold oo the said. wireless data industry Symbian Ltd. as one of the in the way it has a grip

on PC manufacturers.

Motorola joined the

venture four months

to his corporate empire. course, Mr. Justine Heys, an analyst with Yankee Group

Europe in London. Microsoft bas struck deals with British Telecommunications PLC and the wireless technology company Qualcomm Inc., while 3Com Corp., the maker of the wildly successful Palm Pilot handheld computer, has teamed up with Alcatel SA of France.

'Symbian has clearly the strongest alliance to address this market," Mr. Heys said. "Epoc is very rohust, uses little memory space, and its battery consumption is limited. It was designed for small devices, and Windows was not.

Some critics argue that Windows CE, a tiny version of the standard Windows operating system, is too slow to handle functions in which voices are processed in digital form, a claim the company rejects.

Amid all this competitive agitation, Juha Christensen, Symbian's executive vice president, remains calm. "The market doesn't exist Both Nokia and Ericsson had been in talks yet" for wireless data services, he said, because only a small percentage of cell phone owners have signed up for them. But Mr. Christensen is certain that the demand will build

'We're betting on a self-fulfilling prophecy: that if everyooe in the value chain believes it will happen, well, it will happen," he

NALYSTS SAY that Symbian, which has been concentrating on working with the manufacturers of the mobile devices, needs to start doing more work with network operators and content providers, which are reluctant to provide information services for the devices until there is a sizable

audience of potential users. So far the use of mobile data has been slow to take off, mainly because available data speeds have been low. A speed of 9.600 bits per second, or one-fourth of the average fixedline modem speed, is the current maximum transfer speed with the widely used GSM system. Mr. Myers said that new technology will belp, dramatically increasing the available bandwidth, "hut don't underestimate what you can do with 9,600 hits per second,"

"When people think bandwidth, they antomatically think of the PC screen, which is a mistake," he said. "Phones work differently, and today's speed already gives users great capability for the applications they use most: e-mail, Internet and database access, and

"No doubt," he said, "that there is tre-mendous value now to get out of data-enabled

To No. 6,547,000

whose audience has recently surged rarer, have also occurred. While buffs, are proliferating. A considtransactions on its site go off without crowd is made up of longtime collectors who buy and sell off-line as well. But the Web also seems to be

sibility for authenticity of the of fraud. And eBay reached a setigniting the collecting impulse. For example, Stephanie Cantlement last month with the New node, 23, a nurse in Kenton, Ohio, York City Department of Consumer centage of each final bid, making it Affairs in which it agreed to take recently began collecting My Little Ponies, which she remembers fondly from her childhood. After one of the few Internet vectures to steps to weed out fraudulent sellers. Still, consumers are voting with their modems, and competitors are showing off her on-line finds, she trying to cut in. Last month, the onmust now contend for computer time with her father, who scours the line bookseller Amazon.com Inc. stances where genuinely naive sellers opened its own auction house. Sothe- auction boards for Zippo lighters;

ditionally been expensive to hold and limited in reach. The Internet solves both of those problems. Bidders are also relieved of the social distinct in the plane of the plane of the social distinct in the plane of the plane of the social distinct in the plane of the plane of the social distinct in the plane of the plane of the social distinct in the plane of the pla

BRIEFLY

THE COMPANY keeps oo in-

wares being showcased oo its

screens. It does take a variable per-

The hands-off formula of eBay

There have been numerous in-

has raised concerns about fraud.

be profitable.

ventory and takes no respon-

WORK OUT: It is no secret ters in the United States. that Americans have short attention spans when it comes to exercise. Go to any gym, fering Netpolse on its exer-and people will be reading cise equipment. "Working magazines and listening to out is drudgery for a lot of music to keep themselves entertained on cardio machines. Now health clubs are in- of Can Do. "We want the turns into a time-consuming

stalling consoles on step ma-chines and stationary bikes to pleasant as possible." (NYT) allow users to surf the Internet, watch cable television, listen to CDs and call up past

Netpulse Communications Inc. of San Francisco started in Thailand, it is no picnic.

could it be to hay a new cell

In Thailand, bowever, where the GSM market is controlled by two operators, overseen by state monopolies and regulated by antiquated laws, dition to charging two to four times the handset price in

new telephone number.

phone card into a new handset models or just one brand. Buying a cheaper handset overseas is illegal and electronically blocked by the operators. Each handset musi receive government approval. and purchasers of new handsets must surrender their old phone, fill in lengthy forms and show extensive identific-

Bill Steinhour landed his 1987 Mercedes 300 with a \$5,800 bid.

a complaint, the U.S. government is investigating individual allegations

ation papers. This helps to explain wby the illegal phone stalls in Mah Boon Khrong mall in Bangkok do such snappy husiness. Buying one of their reprogrammed handsets for one-third the official price may be tempting, but the longest guarantee offered to one recent window shopper was just seven days. (IHT)

U.S. AND EUROPE SPLIT ON DATA PRItoo's top trade adviser and the European Union were back at and distributing songs over the table last week trying to hammer out their differences tional Business Machines on data privacy protection. Corp. said it would incorpor-Although progress was made, ate technology from RealNet-officials say, they remain works Inc. into a music disdeadlocked on issues of en- tribution system. forcement and whether condata that has been collected

about them European Union for more tribute compact disc-quality than a year that its proposed music over the Internet withframework for self-regulation out paying royalties. and self-enforcement of data privacy practices are effective enough to meet a strintive enough to meet a strin- proval. The Recording In- how to digitally commess gent new European Union dustry Association of Amer- voice and transmit that infor-

RACE TO BEAT marking digital music so that tation-machine users to record ON-LINE MUSIC PIR- ir cannot be duplicated by a memo to be sent as electronic



At the Can Do health club in Wayne, New Jersey, members can surf the Internet while they exercise.

music standards is getting VACY: President Bill Clin- crowded. Microsoft Corp. has unveiled a system for playing The Russian Academy of Scithe Internet, while Interna-

The companies are comsumers should have access to peting with AT&T Corp., Liquid Audio Inc. and others to offer an alternative to a pop-The U.S. government has ular technology called MP3, been trying to convince the which makes it easy to dis-

The companies are vying (NYT) ica organized a group to cre-mation from one device to an-ate standards by June for other, IBM said, allowing dic-ATES: The race to set on-line bootleggers. (Bloomberg) mail.

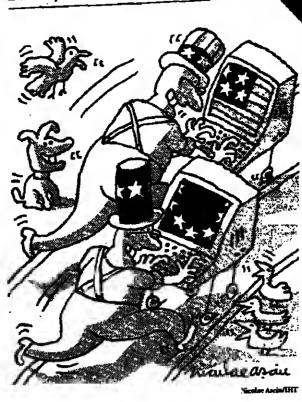
RUSSIA AND JAPAN IN TECHNOLOGY PACT: ences inaugurated a joint high-technology venture with

Japan this week The High Technology Center, to be based in Moscow, is intended to combine Russian and Japanese engineering know-how to produce high-tech goods. (AFP)

SENDING SPEECH: International Business Machines Corp. and Intel Corp. are joining dictation machine makers develop standards to broaden the use of speech on hand-held computing devices.

The coalition will decide

ALT /Commentary



Europe Is Getting With the Program

High-Tech Savvy Is on the Rise

By Victoria Shannon

ARIS - Is Europe about to close the gap with the Inited States in information technology? Measured by computer use in company offices and government agencies, Internet connections in homes, and electronic commerce among and between them all, Europe has long lagged the info-tech boom across the Atlantic.

Reasons abound to argue that the gap will remain—the disparity has been wide, after all—but just lately I've felt a shift in the wind that portends a big change ahead.

The evidence is largely anecdotal and can easily be countered with any of the usual citations of Europe playing catchers.

catch-up: a shortage of tech-savvy workers, the high expense of being on-line, a dearth of venture capital and a basic "bad attitude" about taking risks, for example.

And yet ... something is afoot. The phrase "a year ago" has become key. People are using that time frame to illustrate their perception of the

A year ago, cable modems were nonexistent in France; oow, you can get broadband Internet access in Paris. A year ago, a journalist reported at a recent technology roundtable sponsored by Microsoft Corp., few of her European friends had an e-mail address. Now, many do.

A year ago, on-line banking was a distant reality and state-owned phone companies had just opened up to competition. Now, some European banks are offering free Internet access in return for on-line business, and phone subscribers in Germany and elsewhere can pick and choose their carriers.

International Data Corp., the technology research company, even headlined one study in February with the breathless exclamation that, "The Internet Fully Arrives in Western Europe."

United States, Internet users in Europe today are in a narrow demographic, IDC says: mostly male, well-educated, high-income, accessing the Net from home. That's not quite a "full" arrival.

TILL, PERSONAL computer sales in Western Europe rose more than 21 percent in 1998 from 1997, and by year's end the region had become the fastest-growing worldwide - a rate, however, that is not expected to be matched this year.

It may be that a "leapfrog" effect has finally taken hold: Europe has been able to bypass the experimental, ifit-doesn't-work-take-it-down approach of Web wizards in the United States; concentrate on models that succeed; borrow compelling concepts and avoid costly mistakes.

Voila! European businesses and consumers can now

turn to information technology that will actually help When asked to rate Europe's ability to further close the information technology divide with the United States by 2005, with 1 being least likely and 10 most likely, the president of Microsoft Europe gave it a 6.5 at the forum

"I believe that we have no other choice than making it happen." said Michel Lacombe, who heads the Paris-based Europe, Middle East and Africa division of the

world's biggest software company. "It's a must."

He added: "I think that we will see new approaches coming to market that will make it easy for small and medium businesses to embrace technology. I think that the prices will continue to go down, therefore driving better penetration of those technologies."

Others echoed his sentiment. 'A couple of years ago, I was hearing much more worse doom and gloom, and the gap was much, much bigger," said Steve Shipside, a British technology commentator and writer.

"I'm increasingly getting the feeling that the message is starting to get through" to CEOs, he said. "If they haven't gotten it yet, at least now they're starting to feel

guilty about oot knowing about it."

The hand-wringing among technologists goes on: about cross-border handicaps, about copyright policy, about tax issues. So the gap is still here, no doobt about it. But IDC also says that while on-line business in Western Europe trailed the United States \$6 billion to \$31 hillion in 1998, in four

years that difference will narrow enormously to \$223 billioo in Western Europe and \$291 billion in the United I have my own personal evidence of the shifting winds. Eighteen months ago, when I asked France Telecom for an ISDN line in my apartment, I was met with blank stares. When I asked for a second phone line, and inquired about the possibility of a third, the France Telecom assistant said that I surely wanted to talk to her colleague,

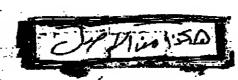
the small-business specialist The notion of a very-wired household was inconceivable then.

But two weeks ago, I was again in the phone company's offices, this time to cancel my second phone line because I now get my home Internet connection via a

This time, the France Telecom assistant offered me a discount on my data calls, subscribed me to a service that sends data and faxes to my cell phone, and, best yet, was completely nonchalant about my requests. The Internet may not have "fully arrived," but it's

Victoria Shannon edits TribTech and can be e-mailed at tribtech@iht.com

getting awfully close.



the Progra



no dot?

there were

No dot for .com?

It'd be like asking, What if there were no gas for the car? No bulb for the lamp?

Simply put, there'd be no Net. Which is where we come in.

At Sun, our systems

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technologies are extending
the whole notion of the
Net. Out to smart cards, cell
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soon out to wristwatches
and thermostats, too.
There's a lot going on
behind that little dot.
We think you'd miss it
if it weren't there.
We're the dot in .com."



LAVA

ASIA/PACIFIC

reti

The Associated Press

JAKARTA - The imprisoned East Timorese rebel leader Xanana Gusmao urged his followers again Wednesday to defend themselves against attacks by pro-Indonesian militiamen and accused the Indonesian military of trying to sabotage peace efforts.

In a statement, Mr. Gusmao ignored calls by the Indonesian government to retract his recent call for an insurrection in the former Portuguese colony.

The government has said that Mr. Gusmao, who is under house arrest in Jakarta to allow him greater involvement in peace talks, might be returned to prison because of the remarks.

Mr. Gusmao had urged separatist guerrillas to step up attacks because of escalating violence between supporters and opponents of independence in East Timor. Last week, pro-Indonesian militiamen killed villagers at a church compound in the town of Liquica.

Religious leaders said at least 25 people died in one of the worst attacks in ast Timor in years.
"I am obliged to continue to ask that

the defenseless people of East Timor refuse to allow themselves to be slaugh-tered like animals," Mr. Gusmao said. He said the Liquica massacre was

carried out to disrupt UN-sponsored talks between Indonesia and Portugal, which the United Nations still considers East Timor's administering power.

President B.J. Habibie of Indonesia has said Jakarta will allow East Timor independence if its people reject an autonomy offer in a UN-supervised ballot in July, but there are concerns that unrest might delay the vote.

In East Timor on Wednesday, a mob of pro-Indooesian activists attacked sep-aratist activists and damaged houses, the police said.

Colonel Musfi Sahudji, the deputy police chief in the territory, said about 250 people took part in the attack in the town of Maliana, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Mr. Gusmao said the Indonesian military, which has provided training to some militias, was behind much of the recent violence.

"I know that it will keep on snpporting the militias as part of the inhumane plan devised by the Indonesian generals to destroy the East Timorese people," he said.

Military commanders have denied acand have said that pro-independence activists have initiated many attacks.

■ Habibie Reaffirms June Voting

President B.J. Habihie of Indonesia said Wednesday that parliamentary elec-7 despite doubts about the nation's preparedness, The Associated Press report-

Mr. Habibie, who took office after President Suharto quit amid riots and protests last year, said he was also willing to leave office if the Indonesian people wanted him to do so, but only through constitutional means.

In an interview published Wednesday by the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimhun, Mr. Suharto suggested that the ballot might have to be postponed.

Hundreds of students protested near the Parliament building Tuesday, de-manding that the election be called off. Unhappy with the scope and pace of democratic reform, they called on Mr. Habibie to quit and for a transitional government to enact sweeping political

Speaking to Southeast Asian newspaper editors, Mr. Habihie said he expected the election to be fair and demo-

He said that international electoral monitors had been invited to Indonesia and that their safety would be guar-

Mr. Habibie did not directly address Mr. Suharto's comments, hut said, "Do you want a fair election or an election full of manipulation?

"I don't want any injustice," he said. because we are being watched by the world.



Malaysian riot police battling protesters in Kuala Lumpur after the Anwar verdict was announced Wednesday.

ANWAR: After Sentencing, Riots Break Out in Kuala Lumpur

Continued from Page 1

The judgment against Mr. Anwar provoked anger overseas as well, where the trial has become a referendum on political freedom in Malaysia. Amnesty International condemned the verdict as a pretext to remove Mr. Anwar from public life, while some foreign leaders — notably President Joseph Estrada of the Philip-

pines — expressed concern about the Malaysian judicial system. (Page 10) Mr. Anwar himself reacted calmly to the verdict, gesturing to his lawyers and tearful family members not to lose their composure. But he repeated his assertion that he was the target of a political con-spiracy engineered by his former mentor, Mr. Mahathir.

"I've been sentenced with a judgment that stinks to high heaven," Mr. Anwar said from his dock in the spare

courtroom here. His troubles began in 1997 when anonymons allegations about illicit ecutors paraded a mattress said to sexual and homosexual activities began contain semen stains from Mr. Anwar circulating in the Malaysian press. At first, Mr. Mahathir dismissed the reports and told Mr. Anwar to ignore them. But later, the Malaysian police began to investigate the reports.

While Mr. Anwar's reputation was under fire, be also began clashing with Mr. Mahathir about how to respond to cusations of involvement in the unrest the Asian financial crisis. Mr. Anwar, who was also finance minister, favored keeping the markets open and hewing to the International Monetary Fund's remedy for curing Malaysia's economy.

Mr. Mahathir, notorious for blaming the financier George Soros and other try hy erecting barriers to foreign investment and currency exchange.

Parliament until 2010—a person given a jail sentence of more than a year is Last Sept. 1, the prime minister im-

posed sweeping controls on Malaysia's markets and, the next day, he dismissed Mr. Anwar. Three weeks later, after he led a rally of 40,000 against the government, Mr. Anwar was arrested on charges of having had homosexual affairs and trying to quash a police investigation of them.

On Sept. 29, Mr. Anwar appeared at his arraignment with a hlack eye and bruised face, prompting foreign as well as domestic criticism. In a speech in Knala Lumpur in November, the U.S. vice president, Al Gore, publicly re-buked Malaysia for suppressing political

A former police chief has admitted that he beat Mr. Anwar after his arrest, The trial itself was marked by a mixture of lurid evidence and judicial reversals. Early in the proceedings, prosthrough the court. But later, after several of the men who had accused Mr. Anwar of sodomizing them recanted their confessions, Judge Paul amended the charges so that the government had to prove only that Mr. Anwar had hindered

a police investigation.
He acknowledged that while he was deputy prime minister he called police officers to his residence to express con-cern about the charges made against him. But he denied that he forced anyone to recant.

The political movement that Mr. Anwar was building before his arrest has tions will go ahead as scheduled on June foreign currency traders for Asia's ecolost much of its momentum during the nomic woes, wanted to shield his countrial. And with its leader barred from and not riot.

ineligible to run for five years after his release - it is unclear whether the movement will regain traction. Mr. Anwar's wife, Azizah Ismail, re-

cently formed a political party to chal-lenge Mr. Mahathir's governing coali-

Speaking after the verdict Wednes-day, Mrs. Azizah said, "We still main-tain Anwar is innocent and is the victim of a political conspiracy." Her voice cracking briefly, she pledged to carry on her husband's caropaign.

Opponents of the government said the verdict would galvanize Malaysians, who followed the trial with mounting, if silent, disapproval. The anti-government roups are focusing on unseating Mr. Mahathir's party in parliamentary elec-tions, which must be held by June 2000.

There's been a tremendous erosion of support in the political community, and this decision will further erode that support." said Chandra Muzaffar, the vice president of Mrs. Azizah's National Justice Party.

But other analysts said that Malavsia's faltering economy had fanned the unhappiness of people toward the government. And with signs that Malaysia is recovering from its recession, it is doubtful that a large oumber — let alone a majority — of people here will continue to call for Mr. Mahathir's ouster. He has been prime minister for 18 years.

Mr. Mahathir, 73, who is recovering from a lung infection, has not coromented on the verdict. But his new deputy, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, called on people to accept the judgment

Keep Up Fight, Estrada Urges Anwar

Malaysia cannot be so easily silenced," KUALA LUMPUR — The president of the Philippines joined human rights groups on Wednesday in denouncing the Amnesty International said. Australia's foreign minister, Alexanconviction of Malaysia's former deputy der Downer, said that be hoped that the appeals process would reflect the prinprime minister and his sentence of six ciples of natural justice, due process and

years in prison.
President Joseph Estrada called Anthe rule of law. A Thai government spokesman, Akawar Ibrahim's conviction on four corruption charges "very unfortunate" and pol Sorasuchart, said that there was no official comment but added, "If this said he hoped that Mr. Anwar might be court's procedures are unjust, the in-"My message is, keep on fighting," Mr. Estrada said. "If he's not really

ternational community will cry ont." Britain's foreign secretary, Robin Cook, said in London that aspects of the trial "give real cause for concern, in particular, the relationship between the executive and the judiciary in Malay-

He said that he was writing to Mr. Amnesty International, calling Mr. Anwar's wife to express his sympathy. The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, which like many similar groups watched Mr. Anwar's seven-month trial closely, said that it was not surprised by

the verdict. The prison gates may have been shut "All indications are that the charges today on Anwar Ibrahim hut the public were hrought as part of a politically debate about human rights and political motivated campaign against Mr. An-

freedoms that his case has generated in war," the Lawyers Committee said in a. statement.

Mark Daly, a lawyer who attended part of the trial on behalf of Amnesty International, said, "Anyone daring to dissent or express themselves contrary to the government line is a target of the government apparatus, Mr. Daly said that he had been deeply

disturbed by reported comments by President Mahathir bin Mohamad during the trial that the president believed his former protégé to be guilty. John Malott, the U.S. ambassador to

Malaysia until his retirement last year, also criticized the verdict. "The decision was made to get him, and he's been got," Mr. Malott said. "It's ontrageons. Japan, meanwhile, said it had no plans

to change its aid policy toward Malaysia following Mr. Anwar's conviction. declined to comment on the sentencing

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials of Mr. Anwar. Last October, Japan announced a \$30

billion Asian aid package, of which Malaysia is a recipient, with Indonesia, South Korea, the Philippines and Thai-

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Government in India Fights to Hold Power

By Pamela Constable Washington Post Service

day, leaving the country facing a period-could actually be strengthened by havof political uncertainty just as India and ing cast off its most troublesome ally, its neighboring rival Pakistan have conducted tit-for-tat nuclear missile tests. make unpopular policy decisions and The governing party, facing an immediate vote of confidence in Parliament on Thursday, scrambled late into the night to secure enough votes to survive.

At virtually the same moment Wednesday morning, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was informed both that Javalalitha Jayaram, a mercurial coalition partner, had pulled her 18 members of Parliament out of the government and em Pakistani desert.

India tested its Agni-2 ballistic missile Monday, and the prime minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, immediately warned that his government would have a "befitting" response. Last May, the two countries conducted a series of nuclear tests, raising international fears of a nuclear arms race, but Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Sharif have since met and agreed to

work toward resolving their differences. Some diplomats and analysts said Wednesday that they believed that Mr. Vajpayee could eke out enough support from various small parties, including a local rival of Miss Jayaram, to remain in power. On Wednesday night, President K.R. Narayanan, called for a vote of confidence in the Lower House, the Lok Sabha, when it opens its session Thursday, and leaders of the governing Bhariatiya Janata Party insisted that they would be able to prove their majority on the floor.

"We will accept this challenge," a party spokesman, Venkaiah Naidu, told reporters late Wednesday, as Mr. Vajpayee prepared for yet another round of meetings with politicians from various parties. "We will defeat the game plan of our rivals." The spokesman called Miss Jayaram's withdrawal an "act of betrayal" and part of a "destabilizing conspiracy" by the party's major op-ponent, the Congress (I) Party.

But opposition leaders, asserting that the Vajpayee government had lost its credibility, demanded Wednesday that the prime minister resign. The leader of the Congress Party, Sonia Gandhi, was set to meet with Miss Jayaram, a South Indian party boss who swept into the capital Monday with an entourage of aides in an open bid to form a new government with Mr. Vajpayee's rivals.

The government has no moral, constitutional and political right to continue in office," said Arjun Singh, a Congress spokesman. "We don't want to leave the country at the mercy of a corrupt and communal cabal."

Miss Jayaram, emerging from her palatial suite at one of the capital's leadng hotels to announce her break with the government, accused Mr. Vajpayee's regime of being "a threat to national security." The political leader from Tamil corruption and aiding foreign terrorists.

News of the Pakistani missile test was all but eclipsed here by the frenzy of domestic political developments Wednesday. Neither the government nor its opponents had anything to say on the issue, while leaders from all parties haddled in hotels and offices, making deals and counting votes. By afternoon, the government was said to be within three or four seats of collapsing or surviving.

But diplomats and nuclear experts. while disagreeing on how dangerous the new round of tests may prove for re-gional stability, all said that the timing of the explosions was intertwined with the current political crisis in India and that the outcome of the imminent parliamentary showdown between Mr. Vajpayee and his opponents could bear sharply un India's approach to nuclear policy in the coming months.

"The prime minister has said he wants a credible minimum nuclear deterrent, and India is still defining what that means," one U.S. diplomat said. "If there is a long period of political uncertainty, it would take that much longer to find out. If there is an interim government, not much will happen for

hief months in' India's relations with Pakistan, China or the United States. If Mr. Vajpayee does survive without

Melays

Accord

Miss Jayaram's support, the diplomat its majority in Parliament on Wednes-noted, his weak coalition government take a more aggressive approach to engaging Pakistan diplomatically. A gov. ernment led by the Congress Party, in contrast, might be more eager to prove its toughness.

Some critics hitterly accused Mr. Vajpayee of restarting the region's nuclear arms race in a desperate move to gain domestic support, even though the same tactic failed him last May. After a brief that Pakistan had successfully fired its
Ghauri-2 ballistic missile over the southwithered and Mr. Vajpayee's govern-

ment continued to lose popularity.

"It's a horrible gamble, and I don't think it will work," said Praful Bidwai, an anti-nuclear activist and writer. "People do crazy things when they are about to lose power and they see the writing on the wall. But now this has explicitly extended the nuclear rivalry to a new level, and a series of competitions could break out. I don't see how they can be so hlase."

Noting that both Indian and Pakistani

officials made belligerent, triumphalist statements after their respective tests this week, he added, "We're right back to the same rhetoric that followed the May tests. It completely destroys the

idea of being on the path to peace."

Mr. Bidwai also suggested that China, another adversary of India, which has signed numerous arms reduction treaties in the last several years, could now be provoked into relaunching a separate nuclear arms race.

ALGERIA: 6 Pull Out of Race

Continued from Page 1

President Zeroual's refusal to meet with the six Wednesday and consider their demand that he cancel a tainted process prompted their decision to boycott the elections.

One of the six candidates, former Prime Minister Mokdad Siff, said after the news conference, "if democracy is not respected, I'm not going to participate in a charade. No candidate wants to be elected through fraud."

The other five candidates were former Prime Minister Moulond Hamrouche; two moderate Islamist candidates Ahmed Tabel Ibrahimi and Abdellah Djaballah; a former official, Youcef Khatib, and a veteran opposition figure, Hocine Ait Ahmed. Mr. Ait Ahmed suffered a heart attack last week and was unable to attend the meeting of the six candidates at his own party's headquarters in a crumbling Algiers villa.

Four of the candidates had already

accused the government of padding election rolls and printing extra ballots the defense minister, accusing him of for Mr. Bouteflika, a long-ago foreign minister of Algeria called out of retirement as the "consensus" candidate of the generals, politicians and business leaders who have ruled this nominally democratic North African country since its revolution for independence from France in 1962.

On Wednesday, other charges were added concerning irregularities in early balloting by selected categories of Algerian voters, including the army and

Reform-minded concessions by the government had guaranteed all the candidates the right to be represented in polling places, but those representatives reportedly were prevented from witnessing the handling of ballot boxes in these selected special voting places.

The withdrawal of the six candidates

poses significant problems for President Zeroual, who announced his early retirement in September, and the generals who are reputed to be calling the shots behind him. A one-candidate election after six

months of uplifting promises about Algerian democracy could provoke popular anger at the end of a brief campaign

BRIEFLY

pistol. But Lieutenant Kim's family, some local news media Apolonio Bruselas Jr. of the regional court ruled.

guilty, the truth will come out in the end.

Mr. Estrada was the first Asian politi-

cian to comment on the verdict and

sentence, which were criticized by hu-

Anwar a prisoner of conscience, said the

verdict reflected a "disturbing pattern of

misuse of law and of state institutions by

the Malaysian executive for political

cleared on appeal.

man rights groups.

The truth will free him."

Chinese Police Warn Protester Tiananmen Is Still Off-Limits

BEIJING — The only senior Communist Party official imprisoned in the crackdown on the demonstrations around Tiananmen Square said Wednesday that the Chinese police had warned him against causing trouble during the protest movement's 10th anniversary. Four police officials visited Bao Tong on Friday and told

him that a letter he wrote last month, which described the suppression as a mistake, had endangered state security. He said they also told him, "I should not let reporters interview

The warning is the latest act of intimidation the government has used to prevent public debate or commemoration of the demonstrations that began 10 years ago

South Korea Concludes Death Of Army Officer Was a Suicide

SEOUL - A South Korean Army officer whose mysterious death triggered charges of treason and military cover-up actually killed himself, the Defense Ministry said in its final report Wednesday.

First Lieutenant Kim Hoon, 26, was found shot in the head in February 1998 in a bunker at the truce village of Panmunjom, inside the demilitarized zone separating South Korea from communist North Korea. An initial probe concluded that he shot himself with a

by a subordinate trying to cover up illegal contacts with North Korean guards. The ministry reopened the investigation in December with private forensic doctors and lawyers. (AP)

and a parliamentary committee said he might have been killed

Cambodia Has Quiet New Year

PHNOM PENH — Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia on Wednesday hailed the country's first peaceful new year in decades and said his government's greatest achievement was to eliminate the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group.

"This is the first time in Cambodian history that all of our land is under the control of the one state," Mr. Hun Sen said in a new year message broadcast on government television. He said his new coalition government will focus on de-

Wednesday was the first day of the traditional Cambodian new year and the beginning of a three-day national

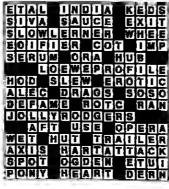
No Fault Found in Manila Fire

MANILA - City officials and the owners of a disco that burned down three years ago, killing 162 people, have been acquitted on corruption charges, a court officer said Wed-

The fire at the Ozone Disco Pub in Quezon City, part of metropolitan Manila, was one of the world's worst such tragedies. Many of the victims were students celebrating the end of the school year.

The prosecution failed to prove that cary outcomes of the disco, Judge "unwarranted benefit" to the owners of the disco, Judge (AP)

Solution to Puzzle of April 14



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11 Kind of card

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Around" (1968 Troggs hit) 33 Action after default **37 Reorimano** 39 Air show

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3 Pants part 4 Third Rock

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composer et al.

sunbum victim?

en Actress Hagen

63 "Like, I get it"

85 Cleo or Frankie

Springs nickname)

67 Adjusts

-City

From the Sun 5 Magnificent Silent Spring topic 7 Judges

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48 Marcus's retail

36 Radon lacks it 24 "Unihand me!" 40 Muted tones 42 Chicken cut 46 Lifesaver, at 47 Dress down

partner 49 Lath 90 Tally

O New York Tunes/Edited by Will Shortz.

51 Brando's

54 Miliciano **57** Compose

at item in a pool **50** Song ending ez German article

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WTO Delays Picking Chief With No Sign Of an Accord

GENEVA - With time running out and no sign of consensus, the World Trade Organization on Wednesday again delayed a decision on choosing a new director-general, probably until the day the present one leaves.

In its last formal meeting before the departure of Renato Rnggiero, the 134-n nation body missed the latest in a string mof deadlines. Members are expected to o meet again April 30 — Mr. Ruggiero's salast day in office.

"We cannot afford to miss the in-s evitable deadline," said Ali Mchamo, the conneil chairman, while admitting that the WTO had not yet reached a il consensus.

121 The commation battle and the pros-21 spect of a leaderless WTO come as the altrade organization seeks to resolve disemputes between the United States and the or European Union over issues such as bananas and hormone-treated beef. The ... next director-general also will have to 21 lead the organization through years of

es complex negotiations to free up trade in riareas from farm products to services. The stalemate also coincides with a strong push by China to negotiate its entry into the organization through intensified talks with the United States and the European Union and multilateral dis-

cussions that will soon start here. It is a year since Mr. Roggiero announced his intention to leave at the end of April, but the organization has been deadlocked over the choice of a suc-

The two remaining candidates—
Thailand's deputy prime minister. Suparichai Panitchpakdi, and a former New
Zealand prime minister, Mike Moore each have the support of a large number 7-of the members. Although Mr. Supachai is believed to be slightly ahead, Mr. Moore is supported by the United States

nand other important delegations.
21. The United States and Latin American countries are among Mr. Moore's 70 strongest supporters, while Mr. Supa-Asia European countries are divided The wind substreem the two ment some march

- in The WTO always makes its decisions ,s by consensus, which has became a long t stauggle to find a common choice from the original four candidates. The ora ganization originally planned to make a decision by the end of 1998 but found it

entrenched in their views, and a decisioo a does not seem near.

- Some countries have called for a vote if no agreement can be reached by the

end of April.

"Our situation is essentially the same
as it has been for the past three weeks." the WTO spokesman, Keith Rockwell, said during a meeting in Geneva to discass the deadlocked selection process.

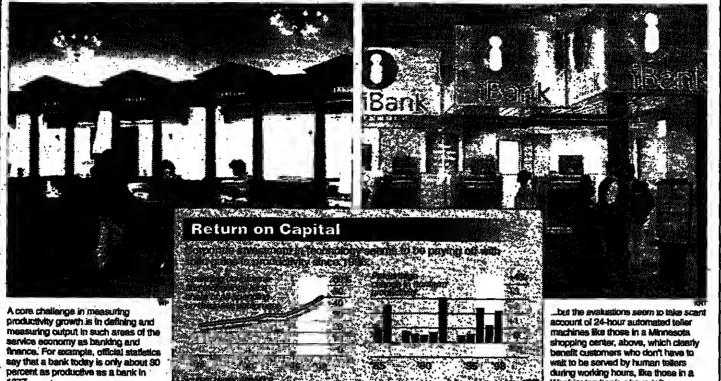
DaimlerChrysler has two mooths to respond to the commission's so-called statement of objections, Mr. Rating said. : cass the deadlocked selection process.

"A general consensus around either

-: candidate has proved elusive." : Mr. Ruggiero has said he will not stay any longer than the end of the month.

If no director-general has been appointed by then, one of the three existing deputies — who are also scheduled to

leave at the same time — might be asked to stand in, or the WTO may continue



At Last, Economists See a High-Tech Payoff

Long Skeptical, Many Now Say the Computer Age Is Bringing Productivity Gains

By Steve Lohr New York Times Service

NEW YORK -- In a nation of technophiles, where Internet millionaires are minted daily, it seems heresy to question the economic payoff from information technology.

But for more than a decade, most leading American economists have been heretics. They have not been much impressed by the high-tech dogma - embraced by corporate executives, business school professors and Wall Street alike — that regards the transformation of the economy through the magic of information technology as a self-evident truth.

"You can see the Computer Age every-where but in the productivity statistics," Robert Solow, a Nobel prizewinner from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology wrote a few years ago.

But today, even renowned skeptics on the subject of technology's contribution to the economy, such as Mr. Solow, are having second thoughts. After barely advancing 1 The evidence is starting to point in that percent annually for years, productivity direction. "My beliefs are shifting on this growth began to pick up in 1996, capped by a subject," Mr. Solow said. "I am still far from

surge in the second half of last year, after eight certain. Bot the story always was that it took a years of ecocomic expansion. That has drawn loog time for people to use information techattentioo because past upward swings in productivity typically occurred early in a recovery as ecocomic activity rebounded. Once

companies increased hiring, it slowed again. But something seems fundamentally different this time, something apparently having

ECONOMIC SCENE

a lot to do with the increased speed and efficiency that the Internet and other pervasive information-technology advances are bring-ing to the mundane day-to-day tasks of millions of husinesses.

The question posed by economists is whether the higher productivity growth—averaging about 2 percent in the past three years, roughly double the pace from 1973 to 1995—is confirmation that steadily rising investment in computers and communications is finally paying off.

cology and truly become more efficient. That story sounds a lot more coovincing today than it did a year or two ago,'

Another pillar in the pessimist camp was Daniel Sichel, an ecocomist at the Federal Reserve Board. In research done with another Fed economist, Stephen Oliner, in 1994 and on his own in 1997. Mr. Sichel found that computers contributed little to productivity growth. Bot recently, he ran similar calculations for the past few years and came to a different cooclusioo.

In a paper just published in the quarterly Business Ecocomics, Mr. Sichel wrote that his new work pointed to "a striking step op in the contribution of computers to outpot growth." Improved prodoctivity performance in the United States, the paper says, is "raising the possibility that businesses are finally reaping

the benefits of information technology."

The impact of information technology on the economy is more than an academic debate.

- See PRODUCTIVITY, Page 12

Earnings Leap At J.P. Morgan

Bank Seeks to Silence Skeptics

By Timothy L. O'Brien
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — J.P. Morgan & Co., often described as vulnerable to a takeover after successive quarters of weak profit, posted stellar first-quarter earnings Wednesday to kick off a year in which management says the bank will finally prove its mettle.

The fifth-largest U.S. bank, heir to a blue-chip investment banking legacy that is now threatened by larger rivals, said earnings in the quarter jumped to \$600 million, or \$3.01 a share, op 64 percent from \$366 million, or \$1.80 a share, in the

Morgan's shares rose \$2.6875 to close at \$132 on the New York Stock Exchange. Morgan's revenue rose 25 percent in the quarter, to \$2.5 billion.

The report from J. P. Morgan came after several other U.S.-based investment banks posted increased trading reveoue for

the first quarter in recent days as markets around the world recovered from their declines in the second half of last year.

Merrill Lynch & Co., the biggest U.S. brokerage, said Tuesday that its profit rose 18 percent, to \$609 million, as trading revenue climbed 23 percent. Bear, Stearns & Co. said profit rose 23 percent to a record in the year's first three mooths, while Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co.'s earnings gained 50 percent.

Bank advisers have said that Morgan's board of directors have given the bank's chairman, Douglas Warner, about a year to sharply heighten the bank's earnings profile before it would seriously consider other alternatives for the company.

The bank's profit in the quarter was buoyed by strong gains in its bond trading business, in which Morgan has loog been an international powerhouse, and by astute moves to hedge its financial exposure to soch risky markets as Brazil.

It also made a strong showing in stock underwriting and trading, as well as in derivatives.

Morgan said overseas markets had calmed down since a wave of currency devaluations and other financial woes began washing across the globe almost two years ago.

"This is the first time in over five years the bank has generated more than a 20 percent return oo equity, so it's been a long time in coming," said Diane Glossman, an analyst with

Lebman Brothers Inc.

"But it's still a stretch to say that strong reveoue growth is a permanent coodition at Morgan."

Another positive trend, analysts said, was Morgan's increasing ability to get its once-hurgeoning budget under control. The bank said operating expenses, excluding a one-time charge in last year's first quarter, rose about 11 percent, to \$1.57 hillioo. But that represented a smaller percentage of revenue than Morgan typically has shown in prior quarters a welcome sign, analysis said.

Another large bank, Fleet Financial Group Inc., also re-

ported first-quarter earnings Wednesday. It posted robust profit of \$438 million, or 72 cents a share, up 36 percent from

\$323 million, or 53 ceots a share, in last year's first quarter.
Analysts had been expecting Fleet to post earnings of 69 cents a share. On the Big Board, Fleet's shares rose 43.75 cents to close at \$43.50.

Daimler Faces EU Fine was deadlocked. All the members have said they will not block either candidate, but they are entrenched in their views, and a decision.

mission said Wednesday that Daimler- that the commission opened a legal pro-Chrysler AG faced a fine after finding that the automaker had refused to sell cars to customers who crossed European

dealers in several European countries. Hanns Glatz, DaimierChrysler's EU representative, said be did not think the commission could prove Daimler-Chrysler had a consistent policy of deny-ing cars to foreign buyers. "We never

In a letter to the members late last week, Mr. Ruggiero said a decision had to be made by the end of April.

"No interim solution or postpone—"No interim solution or postpone—into account the outstanding qualities of the candidates," Mr. Ruggiero said.

(AP, Bloomberg)

A two-year inquiry by the European Union's executive agency found evidence that DaimlerChrysler dealers in Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany had broken EU antitrust rules by refusing to sell to foreigners between by refusing to sell to foreigners between the candidates," Mr. Ruggiero said.

(AP, Bloomberg)

A two-year inquiry by the European Union's executive agency found evidence that DaimlerChrysler dealers in Germany had broken EU antitrust rules by refusing to sell to foreigners between the outstanding qualities of the candidates," Mr. Ruggiero said.

(AP, Bloomberg)

Completed by Our Sufficient Despectors

10 dealers encouraging them not to sell to
BRUSSELS — The European Comforeigners," Mr. Rating soid, adding ceeding this month against Daimler-Chrysler by sending the company a for-mal list of its complaints.

DaimlerChrysler has two mooths to

was cooperating with an investigation. It will also have a chance to present its into the sales practices of Mercedes-Benz case at a hearing before the commission makes a final decisioo, expected within

six months. If found guilty, DaimlerChrysler could face fines of as much as 10 percent of its worldwide revenue in the year preceding the decision. The company posted sales of 132 billion euros (\$142

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After Big Loss, a New Chief for Nissan?

TOKYO -- Nissan Motor Co. had a net loss of more than 30 billion yen

Shimbun also said.

A Nissan representative was quoted The newspaper also reported that Nis-report was speculative. She said the company was puring together its results ments or forgo them entirely.

Cross Rates

for the year and that no final oumbers

were available. The losses resulted from sluggish do-

net loss of 10 billion yen for the year.

Nissan said the company's North American operations probably had a profit in the 1998-99 financial year for the first net loss of more than 30 billion yen (\$248 million), three times the automaker's latest estimate, in the year that ended March 31, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Wednesday.

Yoshifumi Tsuji, the company chairman, was expected to resign to take man, was expected to during the year, the paper reported. Nissan's parent company also probably had a profit in the 1998-99 financial year for the first time in two years. Nissan had expected to break even in North America after posting losses of 80 hillion yen there the previous year.

Nissan's parent company also probably had a profit in the 1998-99 financial year for the first time in two years. Nissan had expected to break even in North America after posting losses of 80 hillion yen there the previous year.

Nissan's parent company also probably had a profit in the 1998-99 financial year for the first time in two years. Nissan had expected to break even in North America after posting losses of 80 hillion yen there is no previous year.

Nissan's parent company also probably had a profit in the 1998-99 financial year for the first time in two years. Nissan had expected to break even in North America after posting losses of 80 hillion yen the intention of the 1998-99 financial year for the first time in two years. Nissan had expected to break even in North America after posting losses of 80 hillion yen in the 1998-99 financial year for the first time in two years. Nissan had expected to break even in North America after posting losses of 80 hillion yen in the 1998-99 financial year for the intention in the 1998-99 financial year for the intention in the 1998-99 financial year for

mature to speak of a Nissan revival in North America, the world's biggest auto market, with sales of 15.8 million vehicles in 1998. (AP, Bloomberg)

CURRENCY RATES

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-Euro Values

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GENEVA ZURICH LAUSANNE LONDON ATHENS LUXEMBOURG MONACO GUERNSEY JERSEY MJAMI SÃO PAULD BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS BERMUDA

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investor's America 30-Year T-Bond Yield 1.05 N D J F N D J F M 1999 Wednesday Prev. Exchange index Change @ 4PM · Close 19411.66 10395.01 +0.16 The Dow 132B.46 1349.82 -1.58 **U.S.** S&P 500 658.98 681.45 -1.83 U.S. S&P 100 -631.67 -0.95 625.57 U.S. NYSE Composite Nasdaq Composite 2507.49 2583.50 U.S. AMEX Composite 736.12 737,80 U.S. 6913.30 +0.51 6946.90 Toronto TSE Index 11299.57 11217.33 +0.73 São Paulo Bovespa 5296.31 +0.02 Mexico City Bolsa 442.03

Very briefly:

Buenos Aires Merval

IPSA General

Capital General

Santiago

oEBay Inc., the largest on-line auction house, set a price of \$170 a share for its offering of 6.5 million shares of common stock, raising \$1.1 billion in the biggest offering ever by an Internet company. EBay expects to deliver the shares to

4433.35

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• Microsoft Corp.'s chairman. Bill Gates, gave the Massachusetts Institute of Technology \$20 million to build a computer-sciences laboratory. The William H. Gates Building will house the MIT Laboratory for Computer Sciences. The New York Times Co.'s first-quarter profit fell to \$61.4

million from \$64.6 million a year earlier, when profit was lifted by a gain from the sale of equipment. Lower newsprint prices and higher advertising sales kept profit from sliding further. oMichelin SCA of France is huying one of the leading independent tire dealerships in the United States. Tire Centers. It did not disclose the price.

•Capital One Services Inc. is adding 800 jobs at a site in Irving, Texas, due to open this year.

Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters

Sales Outlook Hits Intel Stock

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Intel Corp.'s shares fell sharply Wednesday even though the computer-chip maker reported that to send a signal to the business comfirst-quarter earnings were slightly above forecasts as it warned that future revenue could drop.

First-quarter sales rose 18 percent, to \$7.1 billion, helping fuel a 57 percent increase in profit, to \$2 hillion. The profit beat Wall Street's forecast.

But Intel said Tuesday it expected second-quarter revenue to stay the same or full slightly from the first quarter because a deal last week while Mr. Zhu met of "seasonal factors" in the microprocessor business. That disappointed some analysts, who had expected a slight in-

Intel's stock fell \$3,375 to close at \$57,125.

A Demand For Pay

By Lisa Napoli New York Times Service

NEW YORK - For the past 10 years, America Online Inc., the largest on-line service in the United States, has relied on volunteers to belp maintain the virtual community it offers its members.

The volunteers, who are known as 'community leaders,' perform tasks such as answering questions from subscribers, supervising chat rooms and enforcing the service's rules.

The reward has been a free account with the service and. America Online says, the opportunity to play a more active role in its "community" of 16 million members.

Now, at least seven former volunteers are challenging the practice, and they have asked the Labor Department to look into whether the use of volunteer labor by America Online and its subsidiary, America Online Communities Inc., violates the federal Fair Labor Standards

A Labor Department spokesman would neither confirm nor deny that the service was under investigation, but several former volunteers provided copies of a letter from the department's Employment Standards Administration saying it would look into the matter. Information about the investigation was to 115 yen, he said. published on www.Observers.net, a World Wide Web site set up by

former volunteers in September. Volunteers pledge to work at least four hours a week of work plus training time and time for paperwork.

AOL Faces Blue-Chip Shares Hit Record, but Nasdaq Falls Compiled by the Staff From Dispatches NEW YORK - Blne-chip stocks rose to a

record Wednesday, led by Caterpillar and other companies that stand to benefit from recovery in Asian and Latin American economies, but tech-

Caterpillar, Alcoa and basic industry and capital goods based on a resurgence in the emerging markets," said retail analyst Brian James of Loomis Sayles & Co.

tedly strong earnings reports, particularly from J. P. Morgan. But Intel and drug shares dragged down the broader market.

"J.P. Morgan's earnings are a catalyst for gains in the financial sector, which has generally been reporting better-than-expected earnings, said David Sowerby, a money manager for Loomis, Sayles & Co. in Detroit.

a deceleration in earnings, mainly tech stocks, are causing investors to look around."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 16.65 points higher at 10,411.66, a new record. forecast second-quarter earnings and sales that

But the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index was down 76.01 at 2,507.49, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index was down 21.36 at 1,328.46.

Caterpillar, Deere and other machinery shares surged as investors funneled money from technology stocks tumbled.

"You're getting a rotation into stocks like nology companies into manufacturers on speculation that stronger overseas markets will lift

U.S. STOCKS

Blue-chips were also bolstered by unexpec- demand for heavy equipment, analysts said. Caterpillar closed at 60 11/6, up 5 15/16.

Despite strong earnings, Intel fueled a self-off in computer related issues on a weak sales ontlook. Infoseek, an Internet search directory fell more than 20 percent its second-quarter revenue fell

short estimates. Motorola was up 3/16 at 83 1/8 on the Big Board after the company reported late Tuesday it 'Those companies disappointing, or hinting at had beaten analysts' earnings expectations by 4

cents a share. Lucent Technologies climbed 2 3/16 to 59 1/8 after the telephone network equipment company

were higher than previous forecasts. Boeing stock surged before the company's

quarterly earnings report, driven in part by opmism about Asia, analysts said. Boeing was up 3 9/16 at 38 3/16.

Drugmakers such as Merck, Schering-Plough and Pfizer declined before earnings reports in the industry next week. Merck dropped 3% to 79%, Schering-Plough fell 21/2 to 57 1/8, and Pfizer

declined 4 5/16 to 145. Shares in Dow Chemical, Du Pont, Union Carbide and other chemical makers rose as investors bet the strong U.S. economy would start to

lift lagging earnings, analysts said. Time Warner fell 1 11/16 to 75 5/16 after the media group bounced back from a loss to post a net profit of \$138 million in the first quarter.

Bonds were little changed after a government report showed U.S. business inventories rose 0.4 percent in February, more than analysts had expected and the latest sign of strength in the world's largest economy. The benchmark 30year Treasury bond was down 5/32 at 96 8/32, taking the yield up to 5.51 percent from 5.49 (AP, Bloomberg, Reuters)

Dollar Slips as Japan's Insurers Cut Investments

NEW YORK - The dollar fell against the yen Wednesday after reports that Japanese life insurers were reducing overseas investments

this fiscal year. "A fund shift out of foreign-de-nominated debt by Japanese companies could hurt the dollar substantially against the yen," said John Cholakis, a trader at Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank. The dollar could fall

The dollar fell to 118.630 yen in 4 P.M. trading from 119.725 yen

not planning to increase their bond investments abroad, the Nihon debt, according to Stone & McKeizai newspaper reported TuesCarthy Research Associates.

dev Suprise a Stone & McCarthy Research Associates. day. Sumitomo Life Insurance Co., Meiji Life Insurance Co. and Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Co. plan investments of about 900 billion yen

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

(\$7.5 hillion), about half of last year's total spending by the five

insurers, the paper said. If Japanese insurers keep more

influence on the dollar-yen exchange rate," said Stewart Newnham, a strategist at Commerzbank in London. Concern that less money will flow from Japan into U.S. securities "is the reason we saw a

downdraft in dollar-yen," he said Makoto Yokoyama, general man-ager of the treasuries and bonds investment department at Asahi Mncash at home, they will not need to tual Life Insurance Co., said the purchase foreign currency to make company had halved this year's al-

'Repatriation flows are a strong \$1.0806 from \$1.0774 as some expected a meeting of European Umon leaders seeking an end to the conflict in Yngoslavia to ease pressure on the European currency.

The conflict is keeping the euro from benefiting from Europe's improved economic prospects after the European Central Bank cut its benchmark refinancing rate to 2.5 percent from 3.0 percent, analysts

In other trading, the dollar was at Dai-Ichi Mutual Life Insurance Co. and investments. Last year, Japanese in-Dai-Ichi Mutual Life Insurance Co. vestors held 8.1 percent of U.S. Japan's two largest life insurers, are Treasury securities, making them location for foreign investment from last year because it "sees more risk of the yen's rise than that of the \$1.4837 Swiss francs, down from \$1.4905 francs, The pound was at \$1.4905 francs, The pound was at \$1.6136, down from \$1.6155.

TRADE: Clinton, With Business Prodding, Asks Zhu to Restart Talks on China's WTO Membership

Continued from Page 1

would not come to fruition," a U.S. official said. The official said that Mr. Clinton's telephone call, which lasted about 20 minutes, had been intended munity that the White House was doing all it could to seal the deal.

In a joint statement, the two countries said they would "move intensively" to resolve the remaining issues that blocked them from reaching with Mr. Clinton in an official three-day visit to Washington.

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issues this year in time for a meeting in November of the 134-nation tradegroup in Seattle.

A new round of global trade-liberalization talks is to begin late this year, If China fails to gain World he wanted to complete the deal.

Trade Organization membership hy

And some Democrats in C then, it would be excluded from the negotiations, and its entry might be delayed for years. China's entry into the WTO, the group that determines divisive battle in their party. Despite China's obvious the rules for global commerce, was the prize that Mr. Zhu came seeking but was denied after talks collapsed at the last minute. Some U.S. of-

deal through. At the same time, officials familiar with the negotiations said, Mr. Clinton was distracted by the Kosovo conflict and had not conveyed to his negotiators how much

And some Democrats in Congress were leery of an accord with China, predicting it would trigger a competitiveness, give China a more

Despite China's ohvious disappointment about the World Trade Organization, Mr. Zhu had warm words Wednesday for U.S.-Chinese relations. Having met with business, In the joint statement Monday, ficials said that anti-China sentiment academic and congressional leaders, he believed the deal had fallen suspicious of whether China would Beijing and Washington committed on Capitol Hill was so intense that he said at the Massachusetts Insti-through because of domestic Amer-commit itself to fair trade practices.

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16.25 15.96 16.23 -0.10

friendship and favor early accession into WTO by China,"

Mr. Zhu said Beijing had made 'very major concessions' to Washington in pursuit of World Trade Organization membership but added that these would enhance Chinese central place in the global economy and help the trade group.

"Without Chinese participa-tion," he said, "the WTO will not be representative enough."

themselves to resolve all remaining they thought they could not get any tute of Technology, 'I think that the ican politics and that Washington had American people favor China-U.S. politicized what was essentially an economic issue.

Republicans on Capitol Hill have been furious over Mr. Clinton's policy of engagement at a time China has reportedly stolen military secrets-from the United States, is cracking down on political dissidents and was accused of making illegal financial contributions to Mr. Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign.

Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, the Republican leader, said last week during Mr. Zhu's visit that he Mr. Zhu said during his visit that strongly opposed a deal and was: he believed the deal had fallen suspicious of whether China would.

TI C COOCE MADE ET DIADV

U. S. S.		ARKET DIARY	
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STOCK S	PLI I ! spiri	Camden Natl Corp	Tue's open int 15.854, up 343
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HymanPeromoneSci 1 Secon Geni Corp 1 lor !	for 3 reverse split. 5 reverse split.	PubliSerNew/Nexico Q 20 5-3 5-21	PORK BELLIES (CMER)
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FENB Corp Q	.16 ±23 5-7	Stewert&StevensnincO .085 4:30 5-14	AUT 95 53.25 52.00 52.20

current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split as slock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are chawn for the new

in prest becargrown,

a dividend also estat (s), b - annual rate of dividend alus stock dividend, c - liquidating dividend, cc - PE exceeds 99 cid - called, d - new yearly ton, dd - lors in the last 12 months.

a - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, t - annual rate, increased on lost declaration, g - dividend in Conadian funds, subject in 15% non-residence faz, t - dividend declared offer split-up or stock dividend, t - dividend poid this year, aminted, deferred, or no oction taken or latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or poid this year, an occumulative iscue with dividends in arrears, in - annual rate, reduced on lost declaration, a - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading, and - next day delivery, p - initial dividend, ranget rate white work in proce-armings ratio.

g - could be split in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading, and - next day delivery, p - initial dividend, cnough segment PFE post-eramings ratio.

g - new leaves the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the past of trading 12 months, plus stock dividend of a stock in preceding 12 months, certimated cash value on ex-dividend or enauthouton date.

g - new yearly high, a - trading holied, vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being companized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies, but when distribution, gw - without warrants, x - ex-dividend or ex-dights, wis - ex-distribution.

Wednesday, April 14 High Low Latest Chge Opini

DRANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 tbs.- cents per tb. May 99 82,99 82,00 82,70 -3,50 14,370 Jul 99 87,90 82,50 83,50 -3,60 7,234 Sap 99 89,00 84,00 84,65 -3,75 3,029 Nov 99 90,45 85,99 85,90 -3,75 3,015 Est seles N.A. Tues seles 2,134 CORN (CSOT)
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H065-Leas (CMER)
40,000 lbs. cents per lb
Apr 99 41 95 41,55
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Cct 99 55,75 56,05 -0.35 4,205 -1.43 17,689 -1.92 6,737 -0.99 6,713 -0.08 7,244 PORK BELLIES (CMER)
±0.000 lbs.- cents por lb
May 9 52.85 51.55 51 97
Jul 99 51.55 52.65 53.35
Aug 95 52.25 52.00 52.20 10 YR TREASURY (CBOT)

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INTERNATIONAL FUTURES Latest Chae Optri

> EURODOLLARS (CMER)

> > BRITISH POUND (CMER)

Financial
US T B(LLS (CMER)
SI million-pts of 100 pct.
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US TREASURY BONDS (CBOT) (8 pct-s160,000-pls & 57nes of 100 pcfl Jun 99 122-90 122-94 122-96 B4 I Sop 99 122-95 121-22 121-25 04 Dec 99 121-06 - 04

LIBOR 1-MONTH ICMERI

unch. 34,930 unch. 9,762 unch. 462,840 unch. 1,520 snch. 145 unch. 360,306 unch. 284,059 -0.01 204,109 -0.01 151,988 -0.01 124,924 -0.01 97,401 HEATING OIL (NMER)
42,000 gal, cents per gol
May 99 42,85 41,58 42,15
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Sap 99 44,26 41,00 41,56
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Nov 99 43,60 45,30 45,56 MATURAL GAS (MMER) 10,000 nm bhrs, 5 per mm May 99 2,154 2,075 Jul 99 2,175 2,105 Jul 99 2,105 2,105 Jul 99 2,206 2,145 Sep 99 2,210 2,155 Oc 99 2,230 2,185

APANESE YEN (CMER)
12.5 million yen 5 per 100 yen
140 99 £504 £405 £409 40.0083 80,705
5ep 99 £602 £575 £603 40.0084 1,746
Dec 99 £706 +0.0084 1,454 SWISS PRANC (CMER) 125,000 francs, \$ per franc Jun 97 .5788 .5751 Sep 99 .4842 .4839 Dec 99 Tenes, 5 per franc .6708 .6551 .6779+0.0027 61,439 .6842 .6839 .6947-40,0027 317 .6913+0.0027 6

MEXICAN PESO (CMER) 2-MONTH STERLING (LIFFE)

Prev. open int.: 1,054,00 op 2,071
2-MONTH EURIBOR (LIFFE)
euro I million - pis of 100 pct
Aur 99 97,305 7,375 97,300 +0,005 37,551
Aur 99 97,395 7,399 97,305 +0,010 4,950
Jun 99 97,395 7,375 97,379 +0,010 212,316
Sep 99 97,410 7,325 97,400 +0,510 210,868
Dec 99 97,160 7,160 97,177 Unch. 124,676
Mar 00 97,270 7,250 97,260 Unch. 99,410
Jun 00 97,175 7,150 97,165 40,005 63,345
Sep 00 97,075 7,050 97,060 Unch. 64,259
Ect. senies: 98,1817 Prev. colors: 140 044 3-MONTH EURIBOR (MAT) F) turn 1 million - pts of 100 pc; Jun 99 97.390 97.390 97.405 +0.005 42.829 Sep 99 97.405 97.390 97.40 +0.010 30.915 Est. soles: 9.121 Open cnl. 110.355 off 346

Open and, 110,355 off 340

3-MONTH EURO LIBOR (LIFFE)
turo 1 million - pis of 100 pcr
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Sep 99 N.T. N.T. 97.470 +0.010 97.837
Dec 99 N.T. N.T. 97.470 Unch. 82.107
Mar 90 N.T. N.T. 97.470 Unch. 82.107
Mar 90 N.T. N.T. 97.480 Unch. 82.85
Jun 00 97.160 71.80 97.165 +0.005 63.255
Sep 00 97.070 7.666 97.060 Unch. 82.259
Dec 00 N.T. N.T. 96.890 -0.005 16.263
Mar 91 96.855 6.855 96.840 -0.005 15.110
Jun 01 N.T. N.T. 96.775 -0.010 10.337
Est 5046: 278, Print, soles: 679 3-MONTH SWISS FRANC (LIPFE) SF I million - ph of 190 pc; Jun 99 98-990 8-990 98-990 +0.020 Sep 99 98-970 8-870 98-970 +0.020 Dec 99 98-970 8-570 98-570 +0.020

Commodity Indexes Latest 1,140,30 1,326,20 80,56 787,89 Provious 1, 134, t0 1,326,60 90,91 189,05 See our

CAC 40 (MATIF)

Api 99 128.50 126.00 126.00 May 99 129.50 127.25 128.25 Jun 99 130.75 128.50 129.25 Juy 99 132.00 130.50 131.00 Dec 99 133.50 133.25 132.75

15.10 14.75 14.97 14.59 14.85 14.53 14.79 14.48 14.70 14.46 14.51 14.30

Stock Indexes

FTSE 160 (LIFFE)
125 per index point
Jun 00 6592.0 4501.0 6534.0 —34.0 200,709
Sep 99 6578.5 6578.5 6582.5 —34.5 4632
Dec 99 N.T. N.T. 6644.0 —33.0 1.150

euro 10 per index point Apr 99 4367.5 4312.0 4340.0 -13.5 114.585

Continued from Page 11

If, as some experts assert, the technology dividend is a key reason for the recent extraordinary run of high growth, rising wages and low inflation there are sign plications. If these gains are not just a temporary hlip, it suggests that the Fed can be less fearful of inflation and can keep interest rates stable, rather than raising them to cool off what would otherwise be considered an overheated economy.

The Fed chairman, Alan Greenspan, and the other Fed governors are scheduled to hear presentations from several academics on the effect of information technology on the economy at a private meeting in Washington on Thursday.

Mr. Greenspan seems to believe a fundamental change is under way. He told Congress early this year that the economy was seeing "higher technology-driven productivity growth. The Fed governors will hear a forceful case for technological optimism from Erik Brynjolfsson, an associate professor at the Sloan School of Management at MIT.

Mr. Brynjolfsson asserts that the economic value of speed, quality improvements, customer service and new products are often not captured by government statistics.

"These are the competitive advantages of information technology," he said. "We need a broader definition of output

technology, he said. "We need a broader deminion of output in this new economy which goes beyond the industrial-era concept of widgets coming off the assembly line."

The government, after years of defending its figures, conceded two weeks ago that productivity growth may be understated. The core of the problem, government economists say, is the increasingly complex challenge of defining and measuring output in much of the economy's fast-growing service sector, which includes the vast reaches of banking service sector, which includes the vast reaches of banking, finance, health care and education.

According to the official statistics, a bank today is about 80 percent as productive as a bank in 1977. Yet that seems to take scant account of 24-hour automated teller machines, which benefit customers who no longer have to wait in lines to be served by human tellers during working hours.

INTEREST RATES

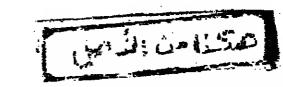
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Kvaerner Swept Up in European Revolution Mannesmann Shares Sink

FRANKFURT - Kvaetner ASA's announcement that it will sell all its shipyards and other unprofitable businesses is the latest example, of a reorganization olution in European corporate cul-

For years, many of Europe's industrial companies soubbed shareholders by pursuing murky strategies and producing me-diocre profits. Now they are slashing costs and getting rid of busi-

nesses that do not measure up. In November, Siemens AG of Germany unveiled plans to spur profit by selling off businesses with sales of \$10 billion. Alcatel SA, the French manufacturer of telecommunications equipment, announced 1 Investmen jobs by the end of 2000. ABB Asea Brown Boveri AG, the Swiss-

But the shakenp announced Tues-

If carried out in full, the company would abandon a business that had also been a bedrock of Norwegian industry. It would shrink itself to about two-thirds of its current size, shedding 25,000 of its 80,000 workers. The moves are likely to lead to job cuts at shipyards around Europe and possibly in the United States as

Kvaerner, which builds products including offshore oil rigs and cruise ships, had been planning to build ships at the old Philadelphia Navai Shipyard and employ about 1,000 people there.

Those plans could change abruptly, depending on what the shipbuilder's new owners decide to do. Kvaerner executives said they had said Ottar Haugerud, an analyst at

as a separate entity to shareholders down. It is a completely different or retreat more gradually by putting company today than it was yesterthem into a joint venture with some day." day at Kvaemer is one of the most them into a joint venture with some other shipbuilder.

Whichever course prevails, the changes will be drastic. Kjell Almskog, who took over as chief executive in December, said the company had set aside 4 billion kroner (\$514.9 millioo) to cover reorganization costs.

Besides selling the shipyards, which employ about 10,000 workers, the company plans to sell businesses with 11,500 workers in areas such as metal equipment, mechanical engineering, pulp and paper products, and a real-estate devel-opment. Several thousand other jobs would be eliminated in the companies that remained.

"Keep in mind that this is an old, traditional Norwegian company,"

Almost any change might seem to be an improvement. Under Kvaerner's previous chief executive, Erik came to 1.4 billion kroner. The company's stock plunged nearly 80 percent last year, though it had partly recovered since Mr. Almskog took over and made it clear he would shift

Many of the problems can be traced to Mr. Tonseth's disastrous purchase of Trafalgar House, a sprawling British eogineering company that also owned the Cunard Line cruise ships, for \$1.38 billioo

Trafalgar was loaded with debt and problems, which drained capital when the shipbuilding industry was

Though Kvaerner sold off numerlosses last year and was plagued by high costs and its disjointed mish-

mash of companies.

Analysts said it may be difficult to find buyers for Kvaerner's 12 European shipyards. Beyond that, bleaker than some analysts had ex- take over Telecom Italia SpA. pected.

Nonetheless, most said the plan was a step in the right direction. "It is hard to get rid of shipbuilding yards in Europe these days,

Markets in Oslo. In Oslo, Kvaerner's stock rose 15.50 kroner to close at 151.50

High Low Clase

High Law Close Prev.

On Forecast

DUSSELDORF - Shares of Mannesmann AG tumbled Wednes-Tonseth, the company's 1998 loss day after the German telecommunications and engineering group said it expected that its earnings in 1999 would be little changed from 1998 because of an increase in costs following its purchase of the fixed-line rival Otelo Communications GmhH from the atility companies

VEBA AG and RWE AG. Mannesmann fell 6.90 curos (\$7.43), or 5.2 perceot, to close at 126 euros. Earnings in the first quarter rose from a year earlier, Mannesmann said in a statement, without elaborating.

Group sales in the first quarter rose almost 4 percent, to 4.6 billioo euros, amid a 32 percent growth in telecommunications division, ous chanks of Trafalgar including Mannesmann said. The company Cunard Line and the Queen Eliza-said it expected sales for the full year both 2 cruise ship, it still ran up big to increase about 1 billion euros, to about 20 billion euros.

"We had definitely expected more from the figures." one trader said.

Other traders said there had been some profit-taking in Mannesmann shares after gains in recent days Mr. Almskog's description of the amid wrangling in the Italian marproblems at other businesses was ket, where Olivetti SpA is trying to

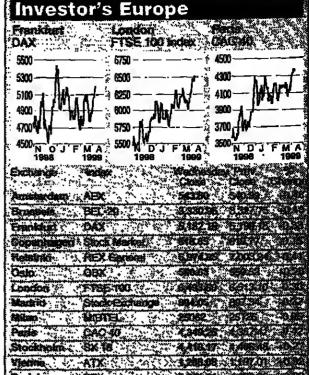
Olivetti plans to fund its bid for Telecom Italia partly through the sale of its stakes in Italy's secondlargest mobile-phone network, Omnitel Prooto Italia SpA, and in the fixed-line operator Infostrada SpA but in the long run this is the right fixed-line operator infostratedecision," said Olof Jonasson, an to its partner Mannesmann.

industry analyst at Handelsbanken Mannesmann said it expected profit to increase in 1999 in its telecoms divisioo, excluding Otelo and a possible increase in its Omnitel and Infostrada stakes.

High Low Close Prev.

1.78 1.70 1.78 1.77 1.44 1.54 1.63 1.56

Tel Aviv



Very briefly:

· Germany's Federal Cartel Office gave Kirch Group approval to raise its stake in the pay-television channel Premiere to 95 percent from 50 percent.

 The World Bank's president, James Wolfensohn, flew to Moscow to review with the Russian leadership Moscow's progress in carrying out reform pledges before a decision on \$1.85 billion in loans by the International Monetary Fund.

 Vivendi SA of France inaugorated a 2.6 billion euro (\$2.8 billion) coovertible bond issue with a 1.5 percent yield and a maturity date of Jan. 1, 2005, the lead manager, Societe

 Halifax PLC of Britain plans to sell 224 of its 606 real-estate agencies and eliminate 1,100 jobs: saving £50 million (\$80.1 million) a year starting in 2000.

High Low Clase Pres.

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 Sweden unveiled a budget that promised both tax cuts and spending increases in the years ahead, sending a worrying signal to financial markets.

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Buffett Brings Europe Into Jet Set ecutive let four years ago when he

LONDON - Warren Buffett, the billionaire American investor desire to develop this company whose many holdings include a around the world just as fast as we company that sells part ownerships in corporate jets, said Wed- is our main project now." nesday he wanted to increase those ownerships in Europe and that he marketing in the Middle East in would invest whatever money was

needed to make it happen. Mr. Buffett, who bought Executive Jet Inc. last year for \$725 millioo, said just 1,100 of the 9,000 business jets owned worldwide were based in Europe. He predicted his plan to sell partial Scotland, stakes in jets could lift European

Wednesday, April 14

in euros for EMU co

Amsterdam

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ownership to 20 percent. "We have the resources and the

Executive. Jet also will begin July and plans to sell in Asia and Sonth America eventually.

"Europe is really tomorrow's of Arran Aerospace, an aviation forecasting company based in

Mr. Buffett first came to Ex-

bought a one-eighth interest in a plane. He declined to say how much capital the company would invest can," said Mr. Buffett, 68. "Europe to develop the market in Europe. ■ Investor Mum on Purchase

Mr. Buffett confirmed earlier this week that he had been accumulating shares in an unnamed British company in recent months, market" for business jets, said Reuters reported. He declined to Doug McVitte, managing director say whether the company sold consumer products or when his stake would surpass the 3 percent mark, a milestooe that would force him to divulge its identity.

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Abstract of the Conference Program Thursday 22 April 1999

Investment Strategies and Techniques

Mr Henri FISSORE, Government Connector for Finances and Economy (Monaco)

Dr Peter WALLENBERG, Honorary Chairman, Investor AR (Stockholm).

Mr Bryan ALLWORTHY, Vice President Merrill Lynch Equity Strategist (London).

Mr Eamonn McGrecor, Director Cénéral, Moores Rowland Corporate Services SAM (Monaco)

Mr Pater STEIMLE, Chief Executive Officer, Fidnism SA (Lugano).

Mr Olivier GOURRAGNE, Director Stratégies de Portefeuilles, Fidelity Investments (Paris).

Mr Cary DUGAN, V.P., Euntpean Equity Market Strategies, IP Morgan Securities Ltd (London).

Friday 23 April 1999 Mx Christophor P. MURPHY, Senior Investment Manager, Courts & Co. (London).
 Mx Ri5ro JARNHALL, Senior Consultant Strategy Group, TKEMA Treasury Management (Sophia Antipolis)

The advent of electronic france & the Internet

◆ Prof. Serge MIRANDA, Directour du DESS MBDS, Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis
 ◆ Mr Stelan Pichler, Executive Vice President Sales, Luithanes German Airlines (Frankfurt)
 ◆ Mr Pierre-Jean DOUVIER, Avocat associé au Bureau Francis Lefebvre (Paris)

3.00 p.m. / 5.00 p.m. : Monaco, an expanding financial center

Mr Michel PASTOR, Provident, Chambro de Développement Economique de Monaco ◆ Mr Insoph-Alain SAUZIER, Delegue Général, Association Monégosque des Banques
 ◆ Mrns Catherins ORECCIIIA MATTHYSSENS, Directeur de l'Expansion Econom Mr Pierce-Jean DOUVIER, Avocat Associé, Bareau Francis Lefebvre (Paris)

From 10:00 to 13:00 both days, a special seminar on Investment Funds will be presented by MONTE CARLO INVEST booth n°1. Free Admission

Herald Eribune

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For information please contact, Lyora Raab: Fax (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or e-mail: fu

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Strong Profit From Old Guard Raises Expectations for High-Tech Newcomers gained more than 50 perceot in the in financial markets last year by re- ditional brokerage firms. Schwab,

NEW YORK — Having evolved have yet to post results for the first from a nation of savers to one of investors. America is rapidly becoming a country of traders. ating over the possibilities.

As proof, several brokerage firms have just reported record profits. Paine Webber and Merrill Lynch, for fueled in large part by a surge in stock example, to earn less in the first three trading among both individuals and

By Edward Wyatt
New York Times Service

Part of the frenzy comes from day traders. Who take advantage of the low cost of trading stocks over the mission income, the company's largest Internet to buy and sell rapidly and source of revenues, climbed 17 perprofit from small changes in stock cent. prices. A formidable market force, this group has recently focused on one of the areas they like best, brokerage firms, bidding up the stocks of the very companies profiting from their

The hottest stocks belong to Charles Schwab & Co., E*Trade Group, Ameritrade Holding Corp. and Knight/Trimark Group Inc., which profit from the growth in on-

line trading by individuals.

But traditional brokerage giants like Merrill Lynch & Co. and Paine Webber Group Inc., which reported record first-quarter profits Tuesday. are also being swept up in the en-

The stock price of Schwab, which operates the largest on-line brokerage, has soared 40 percent in the past five days. Tuesday, it gained \$15.50 a share, to \$150.50, giving the company a total market value of more than \$61 billioo — more than the combined value of four old-line Wall Street firms, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers Inc., Paine Webber and Bear Ste-

Shares of Ameritrade, another online discount broker, have more than doubled in the past five days, climbing \$31 Tuesday, to \$173.25. Since the depth of the global financial crisis last October, Ameritrade shares bave risen more than thirtyfold, from

E*Trade, another on-line broker. and Knight/Trimark, which executes many of the trades placed with the online brokerage firms, have each •RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp., the

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS

Most of the on-line brokerage firms quarter. Bot the surprising strength of the early group has investors saliv-

Financial analysts had expected billion. months of this year than they did in the comparable period a year earlier. But Paine Webber reported Tuesday that its profit surged 31 percent as com-

Paine Webber also said it would net. begin offering on-line trading in the third quarter; the company's shares gained \$3.6875 on Tuesday, to close

Merrill Lynch, meanwhile, marked rebound from the global downturn tially larger than those of the tra-

porting a 14 percent gain in firstquarter earnings. The company, ing to hire 1,000 additional people, is which recently introduced on-line trading at 170 times earnings and 42 trading for some of its customers, said times book value, which is the value

Merrill Lynch's shares rose as high

The excitement about brokerage firms that do business on-line is part of the broader enthusiasm for any company that is linked to the Inter-

But unlike their peers in many other Internet-related industries, several of the on-line brokers are already prof-

And their valuations are exponen-

U.S. tobacco company, has offered to buy back nearly \$4.8 billion in notes,

bonds and preferred stock with pro-

ceeds from its recent deal to sell its

international tobacco business to Ja-

pan Tobacco Co. The buyback will

eliminate most of the company's \$5

billion in outstanding debt, and fa-

cilitate its plan to spin off its domestic

• Goldman Sachs International

bought 2 percent of Bank Hapoalim

Ltd. from the Israeli government for \$59.1 million. Bank Hapoalim's

shares, which have gained 29 percent

since the end of last year, rose another

3 percent after news of the transaction

16 months ago, marketed \$1 billion of

Hong Kong. The bank, which aims to

tobacco business to shareholders.

that its revenues from commissions of the company's assets minus its jumped by 7 percent, to a record \$1.6 liabilities. as \$102.50 carly Tuesday, their market value of \$65 billion makes it

By comparison, shares of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., whose highest level since last July, but fin-ished the day down \$2.5625 at value bigger than Schwab's, is trading value bigger than Schwab's, is trading at less than 18 times earnings and 5

which said Tuesday that it was seek-

times book value.
"Clearly, the investors who are paying those prices are not relying on the valuation models that have been taught in business school for the last 30 years," said A. James Ellman, manager of the AIM Global Financial Services Fund, which owns shares of Schwab and Knight/Trimark.

But the on-line firms are attractive because the potential return on every dollar they invest is far higher.

"They don't have brokers sitting around in branch offices," Mr. Ell-man said. "They're trading human capital for technological capital. It's akin to moving from a craftwork fac-tory to an assembly line factory."

Investors have reacted, however, as if those factories are spinning gold if those factories are spinning gold from dross. Schwab's market value is more than double the \$26 billion that will be assigned to Goldman, Sachs & Co. — traditionally the most profitable Wall Street firm — if the initial offering by Goldman is priced at \$55 a share the top of the prodicated market.

share, the top of the predicted range.
Clearly, if the stock market cools and day traders take a break, the online brokerage stocks could be vulnerable. That goes for a Schwab, which has a big mutual-fund business to fall back on, and more so for transaction-oriented firms like E*Trade and Ameritrade.

• Korea Development Bank, which could oot sell bonds at any price just "The margin of safety in owning Schwab has been removed," said Kenneth Feinberg, co-manager of the Davis Financial Fund, which owns bonds to about 200 fund managers in shares of Schwab but has a bigger stake in Morgan Stanley Dean Wit-

Bnt anyone who has ever sold their shares of Schwab has regretted

April 14, 1999

Very briefly:

•3i Group PLC, the British venture capital company, and Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. are to join forces to provide advisory services related to management buy-out transactions in Japan. The venture, 3i-Kogin Buyouts Ltd., was capitalized at 400 million yen (\$3.3 million), with 3i Group holding a 60 percent stake and IBJ taking up the balance. The pair will start with a 10 billion yen fund and invite institutional investors to invest another 10 billion yea. The management buy-ont business is rapidly growing in Japan as companies hit by the recession spin off units to focus on

profitable core businesses. Universal Securities Co., a mid-sized brokerage that recently joined with Sanwa Bank Ltd., is to offer securities trading via the Internet, the 23rd Japanese company to

•Goldman, Sachs & Co., U.S.-based investment bank, said it is looking to expand its investment banking, underwriting and other operations in China.

7.16 2.86

create a new borrowing benchmark

on Wednesday.

for Korean companies, is selling five-year notes that will pay about 2.5 percentage points more than Treasuries with comparable maturities.

AFP, Bloomberg, Bridge News, AP

Cambril & Eastern Europ Fo India Facal

ASIA/PACIFIC

2 Chaebol Combine Units as Seoul Steps Up Pressure

Compiled by Our Staff From Disposche

SEOUL - Two South Korean conglomerates announced a merger of business units Wednesday against a backtrop of rising pressure from President Kim Dae Jung for

corporate reform.

Hanwha Group and Daelim
Group, two of South Korea's biggest petrochemical makers, said they would merge their naphtha op- to establish more efficient operaerations, creating Asia's secondlargest ethylene producer.
The agreement was hailed as the

that did not involve government in-

Hanwa and Daelim will establish a new company with a capacity to produce 1.2 million tons of ethylene a year. Ethylene is the main chemical for making plastics. It is made using naphtha that has been pro-

cessed through a cracking unit.
"It's motivated by market forces tions," said Lee Jun Yong, chair-man of Daelim Industrial. "We be-The agreement was hailed as the lieve it will help overcome current first voluntary business swap between conglomerates, or chdebol, sound growth in the future."

the government's campaign to revive the South Korean economy, but added. most of the chaebol have been unwilling to give up control of key units to their rivals.

benks to take punitive action against chaebol that are slow to carry out the government expected corporate government-backed reorganization. There must be visible reform efforts," the president said. "Oth-

"These are not empty words," he

reorganization could damage newly improved credit ratings, stir public

Mr. Kim, reiterating a warning anxiety and push the economy back that he has raised for the past year, called Wednesday on South Korean "The government has waited "The government has waited enough," Mr. Kim said, adding that

restructuring to be finished this year

or about 30 percent of its work force, by the end of March 2004.

KDD, the former government monopoly for international telecommunications services, has been

buffeted by increasing price com-

petition since Japan opened the mar-

One of those entrants is Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp., the former government monopoly for

domestic phone service. In July, NTT

will expand its fledgling internation-

al businesses after it splits into three

units, one providing long-distance

and overseas phone services, and two

offering local phone services.

KDD shares closed Wednesday

■ NTT Urged to Lower Rates

The high rates charged by NTT to

rivals to hook up to its local lines are

squeezing out competition, accord-

ing to Washington, which has urged

Japan to reduce the rates by mid-

year, The Associated Press reported

from Tokyo, citing a U.S. Embassy

(AP, Bloomberg)

at 6,350 yea up 500.

ket to new entrants in 1985.

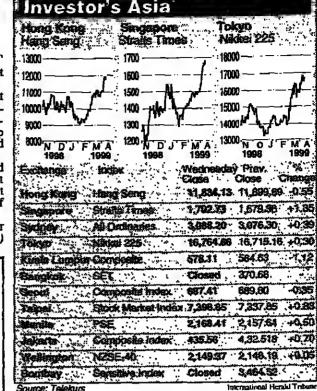
without fail Mr. Kim said that the aim of fierwise, there will be financial sanc- nancial sanctions, if they were im-

Exchanges of business units be-tween chaebol are a cornerstone of last December." posed, would not be "destroying chaebol hut leading them "to ado chaebol hut leading them "to adopt drastic self-rescue efforts."

In a clear warning, he said that He said that the slow pace of even the top five chaebol - Hyundai Group, Daewoo Group, Samsung Co., LG Group and SK Group - could be placed under bank-led rehabilitation programs

Mr. Kim also said he had delayed a meeting with chaebol heads that had been set for April 22 because it would be useless in the absence of restructuring achievements.

He did not specify a new date for the meeting. (AFP, Bloomberg) the meeting.



KDD Blames Competition as It Slashes Jobs

". TOKYO - KDD Corp. said Wednesday it would cut its work force by 2,000, or 35 percent, to face mounting competition in Japan's intelecommunications

KDD's work force will be pared ending March 2003, a KDD spokes- telecommunications market.

woman said. The cuts will come mostly through attrition and an early retirement program, she said.

KDD is the first Japanese telecommunications company to resort to large-scale job cuts to face competition from rivals that have been chipping away at its share of the 500 to 3,800 employees over five years billion yen (\$4.14 billion) overseas

KDD, which has forecast its first maker, said it would cut 1,158 jobs group net loss in the year ended farch 31 because of a rate war. joins more than 100 Japanese companies that have announced cutbacks. They include Sony Corp. and Daiei Inc., Japan's largest super-

market chain. On Wednesday, Tosoh Corp., a major Japanese petrochemicals

Coke Revises Cadbury Bid In Australia

SYDNEY - Coca-Coia Co. offered Wednesday to sell its Australian unit's local brands to Cadbury Schweppes PLC to win antitrust approval to buy Cadbury's leading international soda labels in Australia.

Under the new proposal, Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd., of which about 43 percent is owned by Coca-Cola, will sell its local brands, including Kirks, Shelleys and Ecks, to Cadbury Schweppes Australia. That company will operate its own distribution networks and keep its bottling assets, provid-

ing competition for Coke.

Last week, Australia's antitrust body blocked the companies' original proposal, part of Coca-Cola's \$1.85 billion purchase of Cadbury Schweppes' beverage lines ontside the United States, It would have lifted Coke's share of Australia's soda market to 75 percent from 65 percent and elim-

Very briefly:

Japan's bankrupt companies left 15.182 trillion yen (\$127 billion) in debts in the year that ended March 31, the most since World War II. The total number of bankruptcies in the year rose 0.3 percent, to 17,497.

·China's retail sales rose at a slower pace last month as consumers stepped up their savings. Retail sales totaled 243.3 billion yuan (\$29.4 billion), up 6.7 percent from a year earlier. after growth of 8.1 percent in the first two months of the year.

Singapore was rated by expatriate businessmen in Asia as No. I among countries in the region for its response to the nearly two-year-old economic crisis. Respondents to a poll cited its avoidance of market intervention and its advanced

• Korean Air, moving to ease concern that it had cut comers on safety as it expanded, will get rid of 15 aging planes and hire 50 foreign pilots.

Kawasaki Steel Corp. will cut the amount it invests in factories and equipment this year to 41 billion yen, the lowest

 General Motors Corp.'s Saturn unit pledged commitment to the Japanese market despite disappointing sales of just 1,400 cars in Japan last year.

Renong Plans to Sell Assets to Fund Rescue

* KUALA LUMPUR — Renong -Bhd., Malaysia's biggest industrial group, said Wednesday it planned to sell its property, monorail and other focused operation. chusinesses as part of an 8.4 billion
ringgit (\$2.2 billion) rescue by its
of an ambitious expansion by Renwoll road unit, Projek Lebuhraya Utara Selatan Bhd., or PLUS. 2: PLUS last month said it would construction to oil, gas, public trans-

Sonds to bail out Renong. as As part of the pact, Renong has to Taise 8.75 billion ringgit to repay -PLUS by 2006, when the bonds

Sassoon Research Sdn.

For Renong, which is saddled with 20 billion ringgit in debts, the · asset sales will mean a leaner, more

The sales will also mark the end ong that led to its diversification into everything from banking and isell a record 8.4 billion ringgit in portation, hotels and telecommuni-

> According to documents presented to Renong creditors, Renong will sell shares, debt and assets, including its stake in monorail op-

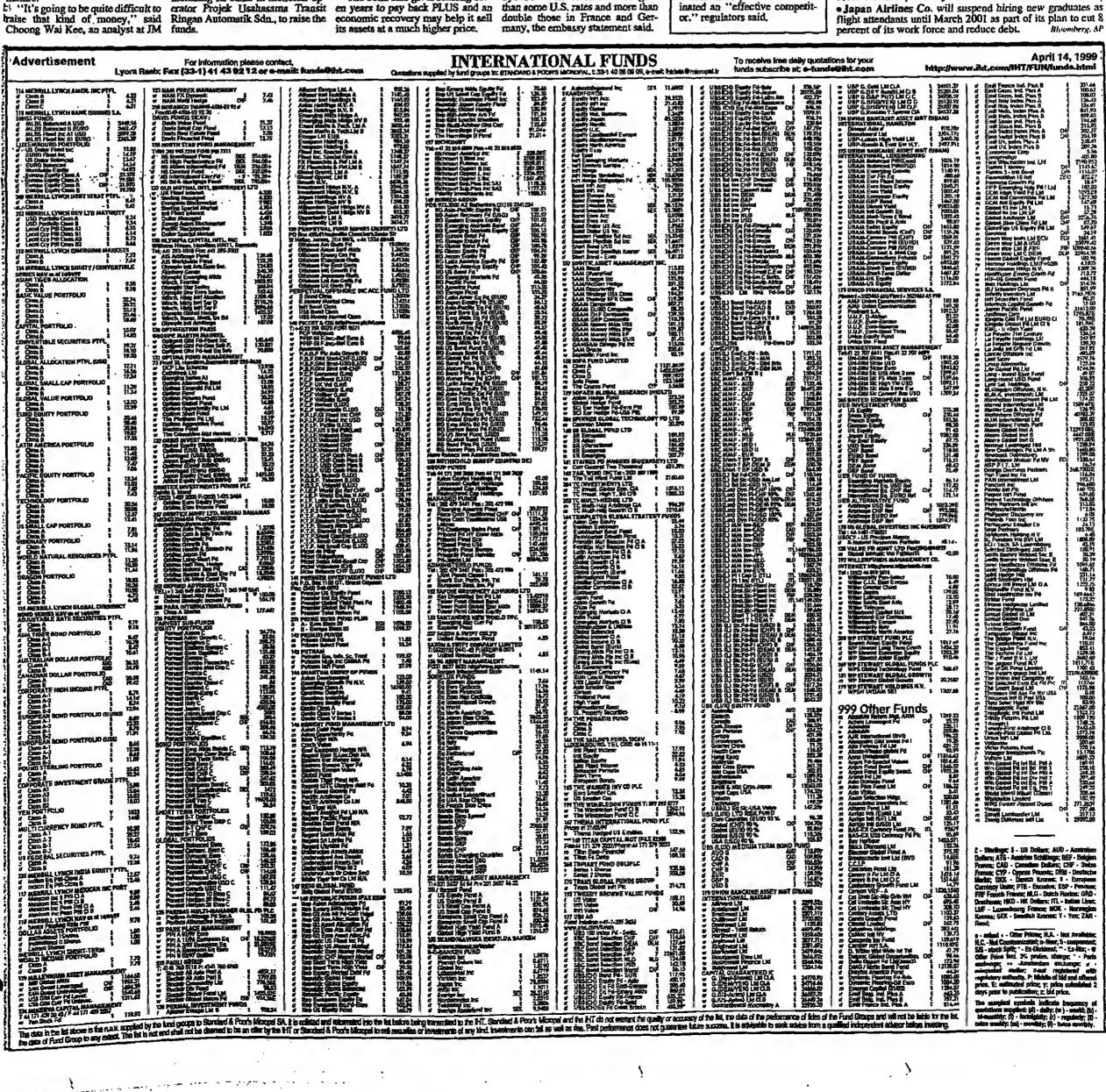
Other major assets Renong is likely to sell include its stake in property company Prolink Development Sdn. and its 18 percent stake in banking company Commerce As-set Holding Bhd.

Renong shares closed Wednes-

day unchanged at 77 sen. On March 8, Renong said PLUS planned to sell 8.4 billion ringgit of year, zero-coupon bonds yielding 10 percent annually, which will be used to pay off creditors of Renong and its construction unit United Engincers Malaysia Bhd.

The bond sale gives Renong sev-

The interconnection fees imposed by NTT are almost five times higher



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SPORTS

Gretzky May Quit

ICE HOCKEY Wayne Gretzky said Wednesday he had not made up his mind whether to retire when his New York Rangers end their season Sunday.

"Everyone wants me to come back for a year, but this is something I need to do for myself," he said. Asked if there was one person whose advice he would consider more than others, he replied: "My wife. She's been through me through thick and thin." "She wants me to come back

for one more year," he said. (AP) Spartak Moscow youth coach
 Valentin Markov, 52, was murdered Tuesday. Markov, who won a Soviet title as a Spartak player in 1976, was beaten with a metal bar in broad daylight. (Reuters)

College Stars Turn Pro

BASKETBALL Elton Brand, a Duke sophomore who won the college player of the year award, said Wednesday be would turn professional.

Brand, who led his team to the NCAA championship game this year before losing to Connecticut, becomes the first Duke player to decide to leave college early for

Because of how well he has done, the decision-making process has been moved op," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "Elton is making the right decision for everyone involved. I am 100 per-

cent in support of it." •Ron Artest said he would forgo his final two years at St. John's University and apply for the National Basketball Associanon draft. He averaged 13.1 points and 6.3 rebounds a game in

two seasons at the school. (AP)

•Khalid El-Amin, the point guard on Connecticut's national championship team, was arrested Tuesday in Hartford, Connecticut, and charged with possessioo of marijuana, the police said.

Another Husky, Richard Hamilton, was in a car with El-Amin but was not charged. Police impounded the late-model red

Aikman Signs Rich Deal

FOOTBALL Dallas made Troy Aikman the highest-paid player in NFL history and yet reduced the team payroll. The Cowboys gave Aikman an extension to 2007, when he will be 41.

The deal, valued at \$85.5 million, includes a \$20 million signreceived \$13 million. The deal gave the Cowboys space under the salary cap to sign lineman Mark Stepnoski to a \$10.5 million five-year deal plus a \$3.5 million bonus.

Top Car Designer Dies

Postlethwaite, the Formula One car designer, died of a heart attack Tuesday evening in Barcelona. He was 55. Postlethwaite was overseeing a test session for the prototype Honda.

In more than two decades in the sport, he designed cars for Hesketh, Tyrrell, Wolf and Ferrari. His Ferraris won the constructors' title in 1982 and 1983. (Reuters)

WORLD ROUNDUP Injury Again Hampers Sampras

Back Pain Forces Him Out of Comeback Event in Barcelona

By Christopher Clarey rnational Ĥerald Tribune

BARCELONA - The man voted the greatest tennis player of the past quarter-century by a panel of experts has yet to reach a final in 1999. And Pete Sampras

won't reach one in Barcelona either. After earnestly and eagerly deciding to start his clay-court campaign bright and early by accepting a wildcard into the Open Seat Godo, he left Wednesday

without playing a singles match after withdrawing because of a back injury.

Sampras felt his back tighten after hitting a second serve in a doubles match Tuesday night, and despite a hot bath and a massage he awoke stiff in the morning, the muscles surrounding his sacroiliac joint in spasm. Shortly after 1 P.M. Wednesday, he was sitting in a crowded in-terview room wearing the slightly selfconscious expression that he often re-

have been a number of those this season. 'It's a setback, no question," he said. "Having not played many tournaments and not played great this year, it's dis-appointing. But I'm not sitting here pan-

serves for bad days at the office. There

icked about everything. There's a lot of tennis still to be played this year.'' According to Per Bastholt, a trainer imployed by the tour, Sampras will not be playing or practicing for at least five to

Instead of getting onto European red clay early to prepare for the French Open the only Grand Slam he has not won -Sampras will once again get on it late.

The French Open starts only eight days after the Italian Open ends.
"This is not the way I wanted to start off my clay-court season, with an injury." he said, "but sometimes you have to listen

to your body and be smart about it." After finishing No. 1 for a record sixth consecutive year, he skipped the year's first Grand Slam event, the Australian Open, to rest his body and psyche.

"At the end of last year, I was miserable," Sampras said. "But I felt this was really the only chance for me to break this record, and I put so much pressure on myself that I wasn't eating well or sleeping well."

Since he returned to the tour in February, his results have hardly been re-assuring. He defaulted in the semifinals in San Jose, California, with a sprained ankle and in three subsequent tournsments in the United States did not advance past the quarterfinals.

"I needed the break," Sampras said. "I felt like the pace I was going the last couple years, I was burning that candle pretty quickly, and after stressing over whether I should go to Australia, I decided not to and then told myself that I had my break and was ready to go. But the don't like grys chipping and charging and don't like grys chipping and chargin

Open in Rome from May 10 to May 16. January, but it's not easy. And yoo know the next couple years are going to be interesting for me. They really are."

They will be "interesting" because Sampras is not certain that he wants to

continue playing enough tournaments to remain in contention for No. 1. Under the new ranking system that will start in January, top players will be penalized if they don't compete in the four Grand Slam events and the ATP Tour's top nine events, known as the Super 9.

"I'm not sure if I'm willing to play every Super 9 event," he said. "I really want to have a schedule where I play when and where I want to play and not where I'm forced to play. Last year, I felt I had to play those tournaments at the end of the year to finish No. 1, but now that I got the record, is that what's going to keep me driving and working hard? 'I've analyzed this. When you have a

lot of time off, you sit and think about your career and what I went through at the end of last year. How happy was I going through this? I'm not fighting for my life out there. I'm trying to achieve a Sampras still wants to win a French

Open. He and coach Paul Annacone have decided that his best chance is to

six days. He already has decided to withdraw from next week's Snper 9 event in
Monte Carlo. Unless he changes plans,
his next tournament will be the Italian

Monte Carlo as udden it starts all over
again: not getting the results you want. I

I'm just going to do.' To do it at Roland
was putting in the time and training in

Garros, he will need to be healthy.



IN CONTROL - Ai Sugiyama of Japan hitting to Wynne Prakusya of Indonesia in the first round Wednesday at the Japan Open. Sugiyama, the No. 1 seed, won, 6-1, 6-3. In the men's draw, Jens Knippschild, a German ranked No. 101, upset the world No. 40, Michael Chang, 6-3, 6-4.

A Top U.S. Rider Ready to Enjoy His 'Downtime'

By Samuel Abt International Herald Tribune

PARIS - After three highly successful weeks of racing his bicycle over the roads of Italy, Belgium and France, wind, rain and cobblestones, not to mention 180 or so rivals.

Hincapie, though, will not be sitting during the long season, or watching television at home in Charlotte, North Carolina. By downtime he means a five-day race in Spain for his U.S. Postal Service

"It'll be so nice to be in a race where yon're oot fighting for position every moment of the day," he said before the Tour of Aragon began Wednesday. "I won't have any pressure there. If I don't want to go to my limit in a climb, I'll just go easy — not easy, but find a good group where I'm not killing myself."

his springtime campaign in the World Cup of prestigious one-day races, where Hincapie, the U.S. national champion. posted some of the best results of his career. He was ninth in Milan-San Remo, 21st in the Tour of Flanders and fourth in Paris-Roubaix a week later, adding up to 10th place overall in the

World Cup standings.
Competition continues Sunday with the Liege-Bastogne-Liege classic in Belgium, but Hincapie will skip it, returning to the circuit in the Amstel Gold Race in two weeks.

Few riders participate in the Liege race after taking a pounding the Sunday before on the cobblestones of Paris-Ronbaix. In addition, Hincapie raced on the Wednesday between Flanders and Paris-Roubaix, finishing fourth in the Ghent-Wevelgem semi-classic.
"Those World Cup races are so

your friends, you don't even talk to them in those races. Maybe you say hello but hardly ever in the pack is there talking.
"You're always battling for position

- I mean always. If it's not a climb George Hincapie is getting a chance to coming np, it's windy. The first attacks enjoy what he calls "downtime." For a come early and then it's boom, boom, while, there will be no more battling the boom, boom. In Spain the races are hard, of course, but you always get your downtime.

Turning 26 late in June, Hincapie is in near the sea in Spain, where he lives his sixth season as a professional after dominating races as an amateur in the United States. His progression has been

"I think every year I'm getting stronger," he said. "Also, I've been happy with my form the last coople of weeks. I could have had even better results if a few little things had happened differently. Like in Milan-San Remo, it was just a matter of positioning. I had a very strong finish—right after the line I was third," instead of ninth at the finish

'Another thing that helps is that the team's really been working for me," he continued. "It's nice in the first 100, 150 kilometers when the team is looking out for me. I never had that before, a rider United States. His progression has been steady and, as he nears a racer's peak years, he has become more powerful and trouble." In other years he was that won the jersey and kept it.

"Even in the winner, when I'm just to the progression has been steady and, as he nears a racer's peak years, he has become more powerful and trouble." In other years he was that with the progression has been steady and, as he nears a racer's peak whose only job is to keep me out of won the jersey and kept it.

"Even in the winner, when I'm just to the progression has been steady and, as he nears a racer's peak years, he has become more powerful and trouble." In other years he was that whose only job is to keep me out of won the jersey and kept it.

Michele Bartoli

of the Mapei

team crossing

the finish line

through rain

and wet snow

the Fleche

race. The

Wednesday in

Wallonne bike

Italian world

No. 1 pulled

Maarten Den

Bakker of the

Netherlands.

second, at the

end of the race

as they climbed

'The Wall.'

who took

away from

Previously, Hincapie built to a peak for the Tour de France in July and the World Cop classics that follow it, but this year his program was reshaped to emphasize the spring races.

After the Amstel race, he will return to the United States for a three-week break, come back to Europe for a couple of races and then start preparing to defend his national championship in Philadelphia early in June.

That red, white and blue jersey with the white stars means a lot to Hincapie, who thought be won it in 1997 and then learned he had been disqualified because

oot training, it's so important for me to be wearing the jersey," he said. "I my to do well in big races wearing it. I've always wanted to wear it."

Another jersey he covets is the yellow one that the leader of the Tour de France wears. Hincapie came within two seconds of earning the jersey in the last Tour, but admits that his future is more in the one-day classics than in three-week stage races.

In the next couple of years, he can become one of the best classics riders." said Fred Mengoni, who has sponsored the G.S. Mengoni racing team in New York City for 25 years and who helped guide Greg LeMond, Mike McCarthy and Hincapie. "He's developing the strength, what he needs now is the confidence."

Hincapie agreed that confidence was vital and said he was working oo it. "I definitely gained confidence this spring. If you go into a race thinking, 'This is not my style, this is not my thing,' you're already 50 percent less than the other riders. If you come in, 'I think I can win this,' that does a lot."

Now, after his breakthrough spring, he is beginning to think "I can win

Michael Owen Is Sidelined With Injury

Liverpool said Wednesday that Michael Owen, the star striker for the chub and for England, will be out of action for the rest of the league season because of a hamstring mjury.

The teenager, who hurt his leg in a scoreless league draw at Leeds on Monday, could be out of action for the three months. That means

up to three months. That means Owen will miss the club's remaining matches and is doubtful for England's European qualifiers against Sweden and Bulgaria in June. YOUTH WORLD CUP Ghana, the

African champion, advanced to the quarterfinals of the youth world championship on Wednesday, beating Costa Rica, 2-0, in Kaduna, Nigeria. Ghana will play its quarterfioal match Sunday against the win-ner of Thursday's battle between

In another match on Wednesday, host Nigeria scraped into the quarterfinals by beating Ireland on penalties after the match ended I-I.

penalties after the match ended 1-1. Nigeria will play its quarterfinal against the winner of the Mali-Cameroon match to be played Thursday.

ITALY The Italian league's disciplinary panel fined AS Roma and Lazio of Rome the combined equivalent of about \$25,000 Wednesday because racist signs were displayed in the stands during the clubs' match

Nesta, would be suspended for three games for a rough tackle on Roma star Francesco Totti and an ensuing argument with the referee.

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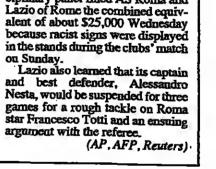
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SPORTS

McGwire Swats 2 Homers to Regain '98 Pace

The Associated Press

sing himself.

On Tuesday, McGwire caught me to ge accept it.

. McGwire has four homers in seven games, the same as in 1998, when he hit 70.

"That's in the past. Let's talk about this year," McGwire said. This is the game of baseball, it's not a home run game. I do what I can to help the ballclub. If I don't hit any home runs, it's no

big deal."

Oh, but it is a big deal to the fans—even in visiting ballparks.

The Pirates began the night in the maccustomed role of division

any other hitter in the league—ton improved to 7-0 lifetime but he's not any other hitter in the league—ton improved to 7-0 lifetime but he's not any other hitter in the league—ton improved to 7-0 lifetime but he's not any other hitter in the league—ton improved to 7-0 lifetime but he's not any other hitter in the league—ton improved to 7-0 lifetime but he's not any other hitter in the league—ton improved to 7-0 lifetime but he's not any other hitter in the league—ton improved to 7-0 lifetime but he's not any other hitter in the league—ton improved to 7-0 lifetime but he's not any other hitter in the league, "Schourek said.

The Pirates began the night in the good low-ball hitter. He's tongh runs.

The Pirates began the night in the good low-ball hitter. He's tongh runs. leaders, yet many of the 19,724 fans raced for the exits in the ninth inning after McGwire walked for the third time. They had greeted the first two walks, both intentional after doubles by Edgar Renteria, with lengthy boos.

The Associated Press

"They have to understand it's a game of basebail," said McGwire is not chasing Roger Maris anymore. He is chasing himself.

On Tuesday, McGwire caught to get to somebody else, I up with his record-setting 1908

"They have to understand it's a a pitch in the dirt just as Bottenfield was squaring around on an apparent squaring around on the first just as Bottenfield was squaring around on an apparent squaring a

pace when he hittwo home runs as the St. Louis Cardinals beat Pitts-thurgh, 4-2.

The fans are going to have to accept it, too. This is not an individual sport."

saw from Pete Schourek into the longest game in its two-season left-field seats in the first inning. He started the fifth by lifting The Diamondbacks, who lost sent Tampa another sinking fastball over the twice to Los Angeles last week in in Toronto.

"They were decent pitches to any other hitter in the league — ton improved to 7-0 lifetime

to pinch to. I didn't even get a

breaking stuff."

Overshadowed by McGwire's
big night was a rare steal of home

run against his former team, and
Milwankee sent Montreal to its
fourth straight loss. plate by a catcher, the Cardinals' The game drew only 5,589 runs for Boston on Sept. 2, 1996. the A Eli Marrero. He accomplished it fans, the smallest at Olympic Stalourch as Schourek bounced dium since Oct. 3, 1990, when ager, took Rodriguez out in the 1968.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

McGwire hit the first pitch he 16th inning as Arizona won the

400-foot mark in center and into extra innings, took five hours, 14 minutes to win this one at home.

Browers 8, Expos 4 Marquis chance to throw him any of my breaking stuff."

Grissom hit his sixth career home in Seattle, run against his former team, and Rodrigue

est ever at the Toronto SkyDome. The previous low crowd was 25,446 on May 10, 1996.

Kevin Stocker's two-run triple keyed a five-run fifth inning that sent Tampa Bay to its first victory

Taxas 15, Marisers & Ivan Rodriguez hit a three-run homer in the first inning, a two-run single in the second and his first career grand slam in the third.

The All-Star catcher set a Texas record with nine runs batted in — the most in the majors since 1996 — as the Rangers won

Rodriguez went wild at the innings as Kingdome, the same place where Anaheim.

Mike Greenwell drove in nine The victor

Dante Powell's run-scoring double capped a three-run rally in the capped a three-run rally in t inning, and New York turned the bucky bounce into its sixth straight victory over visiting Baltimore.

Rather than an inning-ending groundout, Martinez's ball hopped over Cal Ripken's head. Arthur Rhodes then threw a wild pitch that put the Yankees ahead 3-2, and Jorge Posada followed with a three-run homer.

Red Sox & White Sox & Bret Saberhagen pitched 61/2 scoreless immings and Jose Offerman hit a two-run triple as Boston won its home opener. Athletics 3, Angels 2 Mike

Oquist, promoted from the minors earlier in the day, pitched six solid innings as Oakland beat visiting

The victory was the 2,500th for the Athletics since moving to Oakland from Kansas City in



Fernando Vina of Milwaukee after being struck by a pitch thrown by Javier Vazquez of Montreal, as the Brewers won, 8-4.

SCOREBOARD BASEBALL MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS .857 .857 .500 .500 .286 -OH PCL. 857 429 429 286 .143 WEST DIVISION

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NATIONAL LEAGUE Widger, Cost (7), W-Wooderd 1-1, L-Vazquez 0-1, HRs-Alibemblee, Grissom

Widge: Cast (7). W-Woodard 1-1.
L-Varquez 0-1. HRs—Mibroushers Gebsom
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Mararus Schouret. J. Phillips (6). Loisaile
(8). MUWilsones (7) and Kendall.
W-Bottenfield 2-0. L-Schoorek 0-1.
Sv-Accessis (7) and Kendall.
W-Work (2). Pittsburgh, K.Young (1).
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Hompton, J. Powell (8) and Melushaya (1).
Houston 200 673. W-Houspann 1L. L-Critk 1-1. Sw-J. Powell (1).
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Bonds (3).
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PACIFIC LEAGUE

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Cleveland 4-13 7-10 19, Richmond 5-16
5-6 17r C: Keep 9-24 14-15 32, Person 0-173-424. Research: Westhington 50 (Westers 12).
Creveland 59 (Keep 17). Assists: Westhington 13 (Striction 7), Cleveland 22 (Westers 12).

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Chicago 15 (Horper 7), Milerel 25 (Hordowey 7),

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L.A. Lehers 22 15 26 21— 86
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6-7 20: P: Spondambre 7-12-0-016, Rider 6-93-6-16. Rehundris: Lakers 51 (S.ONeod 14),
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Hillmandre 27 26 20, Rehundris 24-0-0
18; Ac C.Corry 8-17-0-20, Rehundris 24-2-1
3. Rehundris: Albarda 51 (Authorhob 11),
Albarda 26 (Bleylock 7), Advance 25
(Workmon 11).

18. Rebounds: Son Antonio Sa (Duncon 11), Dellos 59 (Noveltyld 13), Assists: Son Antonio 20 (Johnson 5), Dollos 22 (Nosh 12). New Jersey 24 29 31 27—161 LA Clippers 29 29 31 28—169 N.J.: Van Hore 9-19 14-76 22, Marbury 9-22 3-3 22: Chypers: Murray 7-11 6-6 22: Mestry 7-12 5-6 20: Rebounds: Hew Jersay 46 (Felch: 15), Clippers: 49 (Taylor 12), Assists: New

Secremente 22 19 25 18 5--100 U: Moione 12-22 6-11 30, Russell 0-17 1-2 24: 5: Williamsen 7-15 7-7 22, Olyac 6-17 5-5 17. Rebounds: Litch 48 (Antione 10), Sacramenta 62 (Webber 16), Anniets: Litch 29 ICEHOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

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WESTIGH COSPICALISES

CENTRAL DIVESOR

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Re 28 44 7 63 185 249

MENTIFWEST DIVESOR

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1 1 8 8-2

Pirst Period: P-LeCinir 41 (Desjordins)
typl. 2. 3-Rossmussen 3 Csmetrift.
Sonderson) Second Period: B-Sroehift 3
(Poto, Rossmussen) Taird Period: P-LeCinir
42 (Brind-Arnosc, Desjordins) Overtime:
None. Shots on goal: 8-5-3-7-0-15. P-10-1111-1-33. Coalies: B-Hasek, PVersiberhauser.

Тамра Вау First Period: Tampo. Tucker 31 (Kurbino) 7:07. 2. Mr., Stevenson 9 (Zhubino) Ulanavi Second Period: Hone. Third Pariod: M-Savage 14 (Kohu, Zahras) 4. 7-Kurbino 9 (Chillimore, Sillinger) Overtimes Hone, Shels on goals Mr. 7-6-14-0—27. T. 9-7-5-1—22. Goallies: M-Hockett. T-Wildmoon.

CRICKET AUSTRALIA VS. WEST DED T-DAY HATCH ENDAY IN ST DEONGE'S, DRENAD

GOLF

Standings for Ryder Cup tratches Sopt. 24-24 at The Country Club in Brooklane, Man-

1. Code Montgomerie, Scot., 6,480.84 points.
2. Jone Morte Olombol, Spain, 6,173.54.
2. Lee Westwood, England, 4,276.08.
4. Mignel Angel Jiminer, Spain, 3,819.81.
5. Darron Clarke, N., Irstand, 3,485.49.

CALVIN AND HOBBES

Bernhord Longer, Germany, 2,347.5;
 Andrew Cottoni, Scottoni, 2,328.93.
 Robert Kortsnon, Sweden, 2,322.57.
 Patrik Sjøland, Sweden, 2,154.37.

 Tiger Woods, 863,305.
 Davis Love III, 850,930. 4. Mark O'Menm, 837.500. 5. Jim Furyk, 550.500. 6. Payne Stewart, 532 500.

7. Fred Couples, 491,250.

8. Jeff Maggert, 485,000.

9. John Huston, 474,583.

10. Phil Mickelson, 460,000. 12. Hal Sytton, 436.250.

SOCCER

YOUTH WORLD CUP rio Q. Ireland D. 1-1 ofter extra fime

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por 3. NAC Bredo 0 DUTCH CUP PSV Eindhoven 1, Fortune Stiturd 3

selle 61; Lyon 53; Remnes 50; Monaco 46; Nordes 41; Lens 40; Montpeller 37; Bostlo 33; Automa 32; Potts-SG 32; Noncy 31; Strasbourg 30; Melz 30; Le Havre 29; Lorient 28;

DERMAN SUNDISLIDA VIB Statigart & Nuremberg 6 Scholke 04 1, Hansa Rostock & Kalserstautem 2, Bayern Muni

Bryer Levertusen 49; Koloerstoutem 49; Her-the Berlin 44; VII. Wolfsburg 42; Soruseld Dortmund 40; TSV 1860 Munich 27; Hornburg SV 35; VIB Stuttgert 32; Scholke Bd 31; MSV Duisburg 30; Werder Bramen 27; SC Freiburg 27; VII. Bochum 27; Huremberg 27; Ethnocht Frankfurf 23; Horse Restock 23; Ber Maenchengladbach 15.

TRANSITIONS

BASICETBALL

MATIONAL BASICETBALL ASSOCIATION

LA. CLIPPEES-Signed G Troy Hudson to
nuithyeor contract.

MEW JEBSEY—Signed F David Voughn to
Admicratical Contract of the Cont 10-day confrod.

PHILADELPHIA-Put F George Lynch on injured list. Activated F Rick Majorn from injured list.

WASHINGTON-Put F Juwon Howard on injured list.

Activated F Tracy Marray from injured list.

ENOTEBLE.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
CAROLINA—Signed WR Potrick Jeffers to
an other sheet.
CHICAGO—Signed DT Paul Grosmanis to 1year controct.
DENVER—Signed OE Corf Reeves.
DENVER—Signed OE Borrett Srooks to 2year controct and WR Freddie Scoti, Resigned OL Andre Johnson,
DIDIAMAPOLIS—Released RB Lamon!
Warren and WR Auron Bolkey,
MAMAI—Re-Signed RB Korim Abdut-Jobbar, FB Stantey Pythort and OE Shane Burton to 1-year contracts.
MANNESSOTA—Signed TE Confestor
Cramplet.

MIRRESOT - Angel Control of the Cont

year Contract.

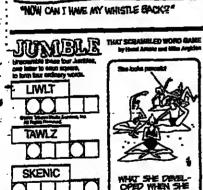
st. LDUIS—Signed OL Andy McCollium.
TAMPA BAY—Agreed to terms with LB Jeff Gooch on 4-year contract.

COLLEGE
OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE—Suspended Tennessee Tuchs Volkon Salar for 5 matches and Gustavo Costro for 4 matches and Assist Perys Sieve White for 2 matches and Marcus Rubsche and Powel Levitonus 3 match each for fastir parts in light during April 6 tensis match.

unced F Ron Artest will forme his final 2 years of eligibility to deckure for NBA draft.

DENNIS THE MENACE



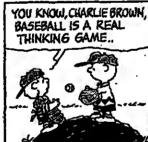


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Policing for the Polite

NEW YORK — The pelice here have been moment. I just saw someone ordered to be politic. They are go through a red light." even carrying cards that tell them what to say to citizens. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani says that if the police are polite, but why did you go through a city dwellers red light?" city dwellers will respond in

kind. I've set up several situations that might occur if everyone was nice to

each other. "Sir. were you thinking of Buchwald

holding up this bank?" "Yes, officer. That is what I had in mind.

have to arrest you and bring you to justice." "I agree that it will put you to a great deal of trouble, but

as John Dillinger once said.

A bank is the only sure place where the money is Sir, what had you planned

to do with the gun you are holding in your hand? "I was going to use it to

frighten the employees. against the law to point a gun at with car theft, somebody. If you did so, I "O.K., but rights, which include hiring a have change for a dollar?" lawyer --- and you know what can get from robbing the bank. you are calling is in.

"Forgive me for asking.

That's a dumb question. I went through the light because I didn't see it."

Nothing to be ashamed of, sir. Many of us spend our lives not seeing red lights." "You are a very under-

standing policeman. "All New York City policemen are understanding. We feel people's pain, If vou'll excuse me. I see sevad in mind."
eral gentlemen stealing a
"If you did that, I would BMW from the curb."

All right. Please put that car back where you found it. Don't you know it's a crime to take someone else's transportation in the confines of New York City?

We didn't know that, officer. We thought if you found an automobile on the street and it was unoccupied.

was yours. You've been misin-That's not a good idea, it's formed. I must charge you O.K., but I have a right to

would have to read you your make one phone call. Do you "Here is a quarter from my they charge, it's more than you own pocker. I pray the person

Ancient Roman Ships Found

ROME — Italian archaeologists have uncarthed eight wooden Roman ships from a site near Pisa. The vessels date from the first century B.C. to the fifth century A.D. and were found in almost perfect condition.

'So far, we have found eight of them, but the excavations are continuing and the fleet is certainly much bigger, 'said Stefano Bruni of the Tuscany archaeology department.

The archaeologists have also begun to excavate what they believe is a Roman warship, which would make it the first such vessel from ancient times still fully preserved. The site will be open to specialists and journalists on April 20, a minister said.

A Larger-Than-Life Power Play Spans the Seine

By Alan Riding

DARIS - With all the symmetry that Parisians love, the Pont des Arts links the painting and sculpture of the Louvre Museum with the philosophy and letters of the Institut de France.

It is a footbridge, but a serious bridge nonetheless, its iron arches resting on stone foundations and 19th-century lampposts adding elegance to its wide wooden walkway across the Seine.

It is, one might say, an unlikely place to find fierce American Indian warriors and naked African wrestlers.

Overnight, however, the Pont des Arts has been turned into an open-air, 24-hour exhibition space peopled by 68 larger-than-life sculptures by a 63-year-old artist from Senegal, Ousmane Sow.

The show forms part of a cultural program that presented an overview of 20thcentury sculpture on the Champs-Elysees in 1996 and works hy Mark di Suvero on the esplanade of the Invalides in 1997. This pulling larger round-the-clock crowds than

The sculptures are all figurative, yet what makes them so striking, apart from their size and unusual appearance, is the physical power and movement they evoke, as if they were alive one moment and frozen the next. Individually and in groups they all seem intent on telling a story. And through their stories Sow pays homage to American In-

dians and to Africans. The show, which will run through May 20 and is Sow's first retrospective, presents five of the narrative series he has made since (1998), which alone comprises no fewer than 24 human figures and 11 horses and represents his most remarkable achieve-

Until now Parisians were unfamiliar with his work. Sow. however, was hardly unfamiliar with Paris.

Born in Dakar in 1935, he left Senegal in 1957 for Paris, where be lived for the next 25 years. He dreamed of hecoming an artist but dropped out of art school for lack of funds. Instead he qualified as a physio-



time the setting as well as the works is A view along the Pont des Arts with a few of Ousmane Sow's sculptures.

It also taught him everything a sculptor needs to know about the human body.

By the time he returned to Dakar in the early 1980s, he had tried his hand at small-

scale sculpture without satisfactory results. Then, in 1984, he discovered photographs of naked Nuba wrestlers in southern Sudan taken in the late 1960s by Leni Riefenstahl, series Hitler's documentary filmmaker, and he was suddenly inspired to attack monumental

sculptures. he jurned to sculpture 15 years ago: Nuba wrestlers (1984). Masai warriors (1988), Zulu warriors (1991), Fulani shepherds (1993) and the Battle of Linle Big Horn The result seen here includes two mus-cular tribesmen wrestling, another two in combat with staffs, a naked woman dancing cross-legged as she paints the body of a

kneeling man.

Sow began developing the technique man would enable him to create figures in movement that are sometimes 9 or 10 feet high but shyly.

Yet it is in movement that he excels: a Zulu warrior bedecked in animal skins about a spear, a young Peul tribesman a

Today he uses construction wire to plaster and rubber to shape the figures. Fi- rolling wildly. therapisi and opened a private practice that nally the sculptures are coated in an all-

eventually earned him a respectable liv- weather substance, the ingredients of which remain his secret.

After his Nuba wrestlers were shown at the French Coltural Center in Dakar in 1988. Sow felt encouraged to press on. By the time he was noticed by the broader art world at Documenta 9 in Kassel, Germany, in 1992 and again at the 1995 Venice Biennale, he had created his Masai, Zulu and Fulani

With the Masai, his second group, Sow introduced animals, as in "Blood Drinker With Bull," in which a tribesman is bleeding the neck of a ball while trying to control its head-tossing resistance.

He was also drawn to create peaceful images, like a broad-backed Masai woman oss-legged as she paints the body of a breast-feeding a baby, a 10-foot-high Masai warrior standing guard with a spear and decorated shield, a Peul woman teoding her

to throw a spear, a young Peul tribesman wrestling a hullock and a Masai woman in a provide the skeleton and then variously trance, standing on her tiptoes as if about to mixes clay, plastic, stone, metal, jute, cloth, fall, her head thrown back and her eyes

Sow, a tall white-haired man with a jovial

manner, recounts that he creates his sculptures without prior sketches, guided only by his imagination.

"I do not seek anatomical exactitude." he explained. "In order for energy to express itself, whether from humans or material, doesn't it need to be tortured in some

More surprising perhaps, he has never visited any of the African tribes that he has portrayed. In the case of "Little Big Horn." though, he read all he could about the 1876 battle where the Seventh Cavairy Regiment was defeated — and Colonel George A. Custer was killed — by Sioux and Chevenne forces under Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, Two Moon and Gall

In the center of the Pont des Arts, scenes from that battle are presented like a giant mise en scene, its fury, falling bodies and dead horses reminiscent, in the view of one French art critic, of Picasso's "Guernica."

At one end Sitting Bull sits in prayer, his hands held high, his head looking upward; at the other end a uniformed army hugler seems to be calling for help. In the middle the battle

At one moment two soldiers stand back to back, pistols in hand, trying to hold off one muscular Indian who holds a bow and arrow and another firing from a staggering

In another scene a soldier with a knife in his hand is wrestling an Indian to the ground. Custer's own death is also imagined: as an Indian fires at him, he falls, captured, as his left hand touches the ground, his head thrown back, the pistol in his right hand no longer able to save him.

Sow's work seems to owe little to Africa's tradition of carving wooden masks and statues and in many ways is closer to the sculpture of, say, Rodin, Maillol and Bourdelle, which he was able to study during his long years in Paris. Yet it is the raw strength of Africa, which he also projects onto the American Indians, that distinguishes it from anything done in the West.

His daring also includes the fact that as a Muslim he has risked criticism simply by representing human figures, something that is snpposedly prohibited by Islam. But he is

"The prophet's concern was with idolatry, not sculpture," he said. "I include no fetishism in my pieces. A sculpture is a work that can awaken emotion, but never an object that should be prayed to."

Brown and Houston at a party in New York.

N END may be in sight to the traffic jams provoked by A "Mona Lisa" at the Louvre Museum in Paris, An international jury has picked a French architect. Lorenzo Pi-queras, to turn the Salle des Etats, where Leonardn da Vinci's masterpiece now hangs, into two galleries, one for large oils of the Venctian Renaissance, the other exclusively for "Mona Lisa." The Louvre, which receives 6 million visitors a year, hopes this will facilitate things for the many tourists who enter the museum principally to see the painting. The \$4.5 million conversion, to be paid for by Nippon Television, should be ready in 2002.

Whitney Houston says she's the aggressor in her marriage to Bohby Brown. 'Contrary to belief, I do the hitting, he doesn't. He has never put his hands on me. He is not a woman-beater," the singer and actress says in the May issue of Redbook. "We are crazy for one another. I mean crazy in love, love, love, love, love. When we're fighting, it's like that's love for us. We're fighting for our love. Brown's arrest history includes drunken driving and hattery against women other than his wife.

The rupper Coolio, accused in California of carrying a concealed handgun in his vehicle, has changed his legal tune again. Coolio. whose real name is Artis Leon Ivey Jr., originally pleaded not guilty to the charge and then changed the plea to no-contest. On Tuesday, the rapper's lawyer

withdrew the no-contest plea. No explanation was given.

PEOPLE

The widower of Tammy Wynette has spoken up to deny allegations that he helped cause the country star's death. George Richey and Wynette's physician, Wallis Marsh, are being sued hy three of her daughters, who contend that the two didn't monitor her condition closely enough and gave her too many painkillers. "All of these allegations are totally false, without

Yoko Ono Sues Ex-Assistant

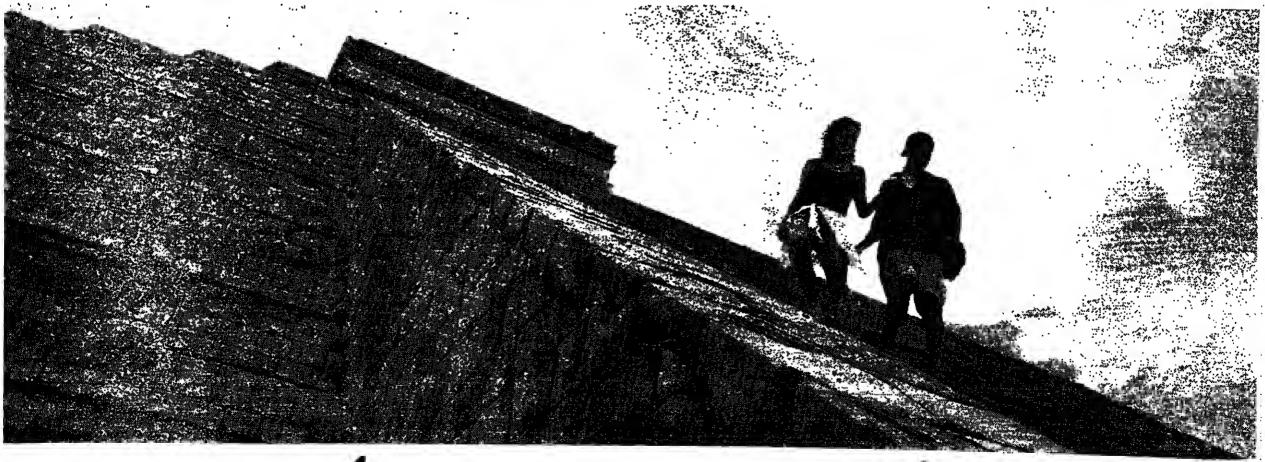
The Associated Press NEW YORK — In the latest episode in a long feud, Yoko Ono has sued a former assistant to John Lennon, claiming that he stole personal items after Lennon was killed. One centends in the federal suit that Fred Seaman agreed in 1983 to return hoxes of Lennon's personal items

but has held on to hundreds of photographs. The suit, which seeks unspecified damages, said that after Lennon was shot to death in 1980 outside his New York City apartment, Seaman routinely took shopping bags full of unreleased recordings, paintings and love letters. Seaman pleaded guilty in 1983 to stealing four journals and was sentenced to five years' probation. He promised to return all items he wrongfully took, the suit said. foundation, and that will be proven in a court of law." Richey said in a statement. Marsh has also denied wrongdoing.

A fan of the bandleader Glenn Miller paid £21,850 (about \$35,000) for a military logbook that may hold a clue to Miller's disappearance during World War II. William Suitts of Boulder, Colorado, bid for the book by telephooe to Sotheby's auction house in London. Miller disappeared in a plane over the English Channel on a foggy December day in 1944. No trace was ever found of the aircraft or its passengers. One theory was that the plane went down because of bad weather, but a flight log belonging to the Royal Air Force navigator Fred Shaw suggested Miller's plane may have been downed by bombs jettisoned by a Royal Air Force squadron returning from an aborted raid on Germany. In 1985 the Ministry of Defense wrote a letter to Shaw saying, "in retrospect we now lean towards this being the most likely solution to the mystery."

Earl Spencer, the brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, on Wednesday accepted a public apology and libel damages after allegations about proceeds from a memorial concert. Spencer had sued Express Newspapers; the Express on Sunday editor, Rosie Boycott, and the media editor, Ben Summerskill, over an article that appeared late last year headlined "Mystery of Earl's £1 million concert cash." The case centered on a memorial concert at the Spencer family home of Althorp in June 1998.

Milliani. the



go down in history

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